



# News & Views

December 2015

Volume I, Issue 5



[www.stcroixsheep.org](http://www.stcroixsheep.org)

Editor's note: Some articles in this News & Views discuss the use of St. Croix sheep in crossbred flocks. I have put these articles in a single News & Views because they are all related and they just happened to come across my desk at the same time. These articles do NOT reflect any changes in the mission of the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders to register and promote the purebred St. Croix breed.

## Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1-3
Contest	3
MEN Fair	4
Matt Morgan	5-6
New Registrars	6
Using St.Croix as Commercial Meat Flock	6-7
Facebook Post	8
Glossary of Sheep Terms	8
St.Croix to Paint Croix	9
Lambing Time	10
Business Card Corner	10
Pups & More Pups	11
News & Views Staff	11
New Members	12

## President's Message

By Eddie Martin

**Why? Why? Why?** Ever been around one of those children with such a “fixed focus”? Maybe I ought to try it out, too.

**Why were Virgin Island White sheep (VIW) seen as different even before any were imported to the mainland USA?** Referencing a FAO document, “This breed is so well adapted to our conditions, that it overcomes every attempt at cross-breeding and after a few generations is back in essentially pure for, no matter what it has been crossed with.” A simple summary word: prepotency. In other words, they fix a strong type and bring in their traits more than breeds that are used to cross with them.

**Why were VIW sheep imported to the USA?** Michael Piel imported 3 VIW sheep in the 1960's to finish creating his new breed, Katahdin. Interesting trivia from word of mouth records: all three of the imported sheep were triplets but not sibs, one was tan and I also read that after he tried various crosses the final Katahdins that suited him were all part Suffolk and part St. Croix.

**Why were additional importations made?** Quoting Warren C. Foote concerning the 1975 importation, “these St. Croix sheep were brought to the United States to; (1) measure their reproduction and production performance, and (2) determine their usefulness as a pure breed, or through crossing, in increasing sheep production in appropriate geologic and climatic areas of the United States ...”

**Why have St. Croix been in the USA for 40 plus years and yet they still remain a minor breed?** Promotion? Research? Function? Economics? I do not have a definite answer for the past but I do have an answer for the present; it is not too late! Starting right now, we can take research data that we have, use current information, breed the right sheep, see the “fit” for St. Croix in the industry and begin to make more happen.

I believe it was Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, genetic advisor of ALC, or someone of his

## President's Message ... continued

caliber who said something to the effect: **the way to preserve a rare breed is to be sure that it functions for its original purpose.** Papers written about the VIW sheep speak of the precociousness, numbers of lambs raised per ewe, out of season breeding, parasite resistance, survival ability and more. They were “natural easy care” sheep long before USDA research stations or others assumed the “easy care” label for their crossbred flocks.

**Why do you seldom see a long term success in direct sales of St. Croix lamb products?** I'm not talking about selling someone a whole lamb but more to the marketing of processed, USDA or state approved, packaged products such as chops, legs, shanks, etc. by the pound at competitive prices. My personal statement from experience: if you try to sell products from St. Croix lambs that are average or less in muscling and growth you will generally break even or lose money. Email me or give me a call and I can explain. It mostly has to do with transportation and processing costs plus the actual carcass yield.

**Why are these sheep so good, so precocious and yet we always seem to have a shortage of St. Croix ewes and ewe lambs to meet the demands in the US?** There have been hundreds of St. Croix females sought for in 2015 and none to fill those requests. We need more females to fill the demands. If you are maxed out on the carrying capacity of your ewe flock then the answer is more lambs weaned per ewe and accelerated lambing. Well, maybe it's time to wind up the “whys” and try out a “what”.

**What can you and I do to make the future happen in a bigger and better way for St. Croix sheep?**

\* Only breed and sell sound sheep: structure, growth, mothering, health and right on down the line. Make it a “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” decision each time you offer sheep for sale.

\* Breed more and sell more sheep. There are St. Croix sheep deserts in the USA: these are regions devoid of flocks or sheep for sale. If flocks could expand in those areas the breed would be strengthened. We need producers in all regions across the USA growing and selling great sheep. Become one.

◇ Develop a breeding plan for your flock. Determine your priorities for selection. Write them down. Learn to select for them. Cull inferior sheep. Keep sound records. Deal with your farm and flock as a business.

\* Don't get caught in false rhetoric. Some will say, “We cannot select some St. Croix sheep and cull others based on size or growth because it will change the breed”. That has been a false argument in the past of those who did not know history and believed that preservation defined selection as evil. Please run through this checklist with me: VIW sheep were raised for **meat; original purpose.** VI private flock owners **selected** white polled sheep to create their private flocks. Imported sheep in 1975 were **selected** from three of those private flocks of **selected** island sheep. Later importations were selected by those who imported them. **Selection is a foundational part of the breed's history.** “Select the best and eat the rest”!

\* We need to understand two distinctions that will either spell success or failure for the breed in the future and quoting Warren Foote from above, “...determine their usefulness as a pure breed, or through crossing ...”.

⇒ Registered purebred sheep are the foundation of the breed's future in the US Sheep Industry. We need more quality sheep and less mediocre sheep. I mentioned this earlier with the sale of lamb products. Seek out the best. Breed the best. Select the best. Sell the best. Cull the duds. Settle for nothing less. Our motto should be, to borrow the 4H motto: “To make the best better”. Either study genetics, sheep management, forage production, marketing or whatever you think or know are the weak points of your farm or ranch. Don't know if you can do it? Contact your regional director, an officer or a seasoned local breeder to seek advice, sound out your

We need to understand two distinctions that will either spell success or failure for the breed in the future and quoting Warren Foot “... determine their usefulness as a pure breed, or through crossing ...”.

## President's Message ... continued

ideas or to establish a mentor. **Each and every one of your registered St. Croix sheep should be one that you are proud to own and hate to part with.**

⇒ We need to promote, document commercial success stories, reference sound research and let all of the sheep world know the tremendous value of commercial ewes which are 50% St. Croix breeding. I understand that this point chapped the hide of a few readers in the last N&V. However, it was a goal in 1975 and it is a goal in 2015. A breed needs a purpose in the industry to gain use. This is an absolute belief I carry: **There is nothing better we can do for a commercial breeder than to sell him or her a St. Croix ram to sire replacement ewes that will make his life easier and his flock more profitable.** Like it or not, it just is!

Why have I written so long? I am wordy! There, I said it. But I am sure that these are the answers to change things for the better. Hop on the bus. I'm ready to go out and promote and expand the influence of St. Croix sheep and I've got the engine running! I hope that you are ready, too. Why? **It depends on us.**

## CONTEST! How Old Can You Go?

Ms. Yates Colby, SCHSB Secretary

We are having another contest for our members. This time we want to know how far back your St. Croix pedigrees go. We will be judging this contest by birth dates of the ram or ewe named on the registration papers. If the birthdate is not listed, it is possible that the registration number could be lower than for the sheep with the earliest birthday. No, the sheep does not have to still be alive. So if you have kept all your old papers for reference or you have some in your files that go even further back, let us know. Send a scan or a picture to me through our Facebook group-St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders or by snail mail or by email to [secretary@stcroixsheep.org](mailto:secretary@stcroixsheep.org)

This will be an ongoing contest. The first judging will be done prior to the next News & Views. The winner will be announced in the newsletter. If you have papers that are older than the one named in the newsletter, send a copy and you could be the winner in the News & Views after that. The contest will end by December 31, 2016 so start digging through your old paperwork.

The first prize of the first judging will be credit with the SCHSB for 2 lamb registrations. If there are future winners, they will each get credit for 1 lamb registration. (The early bird gets the bigger worm.)

## Business Check Deposits

This is a "heads-up" to our members regarding when the checks you write to the SCHSB will be deposited. Our registrars send materials to the secretary and the treasurer once a month, at the end of the month. That means your checks will be deposited at the beginning of the month. If you have special needs, please place a note with your check along with a phone number and the treasurer will try to accommodate you.

*St. Croix Sheep Breeders Association, Inc.*  
15603 173rd Ave • Milo, Iowa 50166  
Certificate of Registry

St. Croix SBA Registry #  
5425 Ewe

NAME <i>Private Flock Tag</i>	PITKIN 0312	BORN	3/28/2003	Twin
SEX	4624 B MADSEN MR 1 TW			
DAM	4505 B PITKIN 910202 TR			
BREEDER	MICHAEL & JOYCELINE PITKIN DEARY, ID			
OWNER	MICHAEL & JOYCELINE PITKIN DEARY, ID			
DATE RECORDED	3/22/2004			

Registrar *Kary Claghton*

THIS FIVE GENERATION PEDIGREE IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR RECORDS.  
Any blanks on this record indicates that some of the history of this animal was recorded prior to computerization. Further information may be available, for an additional charge, by contacting the St. Croix SBA office.

```

graph TD
    A[5425 PITKIN 0312 TW] --- B[4624 B MADSEN MR 1 TW]
    A --- C[4505 B PITKIN 910202 TR]
    B --- D[4154 MADSEN MR 45 SG]
    B --- E[3667 MILFONT 62 SG]
    C --- F[4155 MADSEN MR 48 LEE TR]
    C --- G[2999 MOYER KM 24 TR]
    D --- H[2243 LEWIS 6126 SG]
    D --- I[1579 LEWIS X103 ET]
    E --- J[3256 MILFONT 0 SG]
    E --- K[3329 MILFONT 31 TW]
    F --- L[664 GIBSON HH 916 TR]
    F --- M[808 MENIG 25 SG]
    G --- N[796 GIBSON HH 8027 TW]
    G --- O[801 GIBSON 804T TW]
    H --- P[1293 BABA 128R TW]
    H --- Q[1172 USU 984 SG]
    I --- R[1351 USU 1007 TR]
    I --- S[772 USU 726 SG]
    J --- T[2245 USU 1109 TR]
    J --- U[1728 USU 1075 TR]
    K --- V[1185 USU 996 TW]
    K --- W[1715 LEWIS Y250 TW]
    L --- X[3408 SHANNON CRS 91 TW]
    L --- Y[3027 COGGINS 63 TW]
  
```

*St. Croix Sheep Breeders Association, Inc.*  
15603 173rd Ave. • Milo, Iowa 50166 • 641-942-6402

*If the ownership of the animal has transferred, current owner will appear on the back of certificate*

## HOLY SHEEP! – WHAT A WEEKEND! MEN FAIR SURPASSED ALL EXPECTATIONS

By Lynne Vanderlinden, SCHSB Vice President

In our last News & Views we told you of SCHSB's plans to exhibit St. Croix sheep at the Albany, OR Mother Earth News Fair, June 6-7. Kathy Bennett brought three rams ranging in age from a few months to 4 years old, while Jan Bothwell provided two young ewes, one of whom had twin month-old lambs. Talk about people magnets! The focus of our outreach was to introduce the St. Croix breed to homesteaders, small acreage owners, locavores, sustainable lovers and those with an interest in heritage breeds. We also had posters and informational hand-outs containing breed and Association contact info.



I'm almost glad I don't know how many people streamed through in those two days, but it was non-stop and everyone had questions. Several potential members who had “picked our brains” via our Facebook page stopped by to introduce themselves and finally get their chance to interact first-hand with St. Croix. We were all hoarse at the end of Day 1, and it's a good thing we had no new business lined up for the Annual Meeting Saturday night. It was so much fun meeting new members and finally having a face-to-face with longtime members I had never met personally but had exchanged emails with for years. After some interesting discussions, it was time to get to bed

and ready ourselves for Round 2 on Sunday.

I think what surprised me the most was that about 75% had never heard of hair sheep, let alone St. Croix. The no-shear aspect was what excited them most about the breed. That and the fact that all our sheep were so friendly and gentle, allowing folks to touch, feel, poke and prod with patience. Parasite resistance, year-round lambing, no docking and their easy-to-handle size were simply icing on the cake.



I cannot even imagine another venue that could command as much interest and attention, plus draw the massive crowd, of a MEN Fair. These Fairs are held five times a year, from coast to coast. Attendees in Oregon came from several surrounding states, so it is definitely regional. Go to the Mother Earth News website and click on “Fair”; it'll tell you all you need to know to exhibit. Get other SCHSB members in your region to join you (you don't want to do this alone, trust me!) and enter your exhibit under the SCHSB name as we, as an Association, are a member of The Livestock Conservancy, a huge supporter and sponsor of MEN Fairs. If you think you might want to give this a try, feel free to Facebook us at St. Croix

Hair Sheep Breeders with any questions. You will NEVER have a better platform to introduce not only the St. Croix breed, but your sheep, to people who actually live in your region.

## SCHSB Administrative Update

Allow me to introduce myself, I am **Matt Morgan**, one of your directors. I hope this post finds you well, enjoying the first of fall, possibly some new lambs or the preparation for breeding for spring lambs!

The purpose of the letter is to give you an update into all things SCHSB. We want to stay connected with our membership and keep you aware of what the Board of Directors are doing for you and tell you about some exciting changes and future plans.

First, we want to extend a great big thank you to Richard and Kathy Bennett, long time breeders, board members, officers, and all around ambassadors of the breed. Both have recently decided to step aside, resigning as directors and officers, to pursue other endeavors. We sincerely thank them both and wish them the best!



Director Billy Hearnberger will serve as our new Treasurer with director Yates Colby, assuming the role of Secretary. Many of you already know them, and I think you will find both to be very approachable for any needs you might have. Yates is also the editor of News and Views so send ideas, articles and pictures to her for potential publication. The new email address for the Secretary is: [Secretary@stcroixsheep.org](mailto:Secretary@stcroixsheep.org)

George Morgan has taken over the registrar duties with the assistance of his wife, Lynn, and we couldn't be more excited about this. George actually wrote the program for the registry (called SARA- Sheep Administration, Registration, Analysis), so we know it is in the best hands possible.

Already George is looking to improve our systems, and find and fill in gaps that have historically existed in the St. Croix pedigree data base, dating back to the hand-written pedigrees of the early years. SCHSB is THE source of correct genetic data for St. Croix sheep and is expanding that role. Please note on the website the new phone number 541-825-8580 if you need to reach the registrar. The P.O. Box mailing address and email address are still the same.

There are several things we are really excited about going forward; one of which will be an all new and revamped website! I will be your website contact for ads, changes in member data or to post coming events and SCHSB activities. Requests and changes that I receive will be submitted to the webmaster once a month. If you have any changes to your current address, or contact info for the breeders list, ads, etc., let me know and I will get your information updated in the next submission.

Our future plans include an online link to research animal pedigrees, and a link to allow members the option to submit online registrations. Additionally, we are in the early stages of discussion to develop of a flock management program to be used by you, the members, with your personal flocks.

One of the things we want to encourage is more open and readily available communication between the members, directors and officers. Feel free to reach out to any one of us at any time. We have a Facebook presence in the form of our official SCHSB group. The name of the group is St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders-what a surprise! Most of the directors and officers can be reached through that group as well. We have had interest for our newsletter, The News & Views, to be sent electronically via email, so be on the lookout later this fall for the next News & Views to hit your inbox. As in the past, the newsletter will also appear on our website.

From a business standpoint, it isn't too early to be thinking about 2016 dues. Remember, they are due January 1st. Please mark your calendars, and keep in mind that dues paid reflect January 1- December 31 of a given year,

## Dear fellow St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders Members ... continued

and not a calendar year from when received. Registrations and transfers, as you know, will not be processed unless current dues are paid. An updated work order form will soon be available on the website and included in the next News & Views. How can we help you? We'd love to know.

Regards and happy farming to all,  
Matt Morgan  
Director, SCHSB <http://www.stcroixsheep.org>



## Introducing our new Registrars



George & Lynn Morgan have been married for 27 years, and working closely together as a team for over 28 years. George has a strong background in computer programming and repair, while Lynn favors the 'prettier' side web designing, as well as the meticulous patience of data organization. She also teaches Yoga, spins Poi, teaches music, and sells healthy, home created products at local Farmers' Markets.

They met and worked in San Francisco, then spent seven years in Alaska, moved back to California to work an Almond & Walnut ranch, and finally went to Days Creek, Oregon to live near Lynn's mom. They purchased an abandoned piece of property, and did all the extensive construction work themselves, as well as all the land-work. Both share a deep love of animals and nature, and take seriously their stewardship to their land.



## Using St. Croix in a Commercial Meat Flock

By Eddie Martin

I know of no better way to spend a morning in mid-April that to take a trip to Danielsville, GA and visit with friends who raise sheep. The trip was a little over an hour long but the scenery was worth every minute: new tree leaves, fields of small grains and canola, azalea and dogwood blooms, farms, homes, cattle, poultry farms, clean towns and granite processors filled the miles. Wesley and Lillian Chandler live on their farm located on Long Peeples Road in a beautiful home and well-kept yard. I passed the flock of ewes and lambs along the driveway on the trip to the house. A quick change into waterproof boots and we were off on the tour. The Chandler's have a flock that greatly interests me for several reasons. As you may have guessed by reading this article in the N&V, they have used a St. Croix ram in the past and will use another one in 2015. Their current commercial flock started off as a replacement for a flock of goats that were challenges in various ways. The original ewes were a mix of Katahdin and Dorper breeding. A few other ewes were added and a Katahdin ram was borrowed to sire the first crop of lambs.

From researching sheep that had less problems or could be lower maintenance, Mr. Chandler chose to buy a St. Croix ram lamb in April 2011. All of his current 18 ewes are daughters of that ram. Current ewes were born in

## Using St. Croix in a Commercial Meat Flock... continued

both January and February of 2012 or in October and November of 2012. With those F1 ewes (50% St. Croix) he decided to raise lambs that would do well in the local sheep and goat sale at Eastanollee, GA so he purchased a Dorper ram.



One profitable F1 ewe with lambs.

His last two crops of lambs, including the remainder of this year's crop have been sired by this ram and these are some really nice lambs. This year's lambs were born from the last week of December 2014 through the middle of January 2015. The 12 larger ram lambs were sold in March and they averaged about \$140 per head. The remaining nine ram lambs will be sold tomorrow and the ewe lambs will be kept on the farm for a little longer. (Update: I was able to attend the sale on the next day and the lambs sold well with all in the top end of sheep prices and some topped that sale.)

The health, quality and function of this flock is impressive. Some occasional foot trimming is done as needed and as labor is available. The sheep are wormed as needed but it has been some time since the ewes were wormed and the lambs have not needed to be wormed. This year's lambing record is enviable: of the 18 ewes one failed to breed on time but was bred for a later lambing and the 17 bred ewes produced 33 lambs. Wow! And on their own in the pasture.

The pastures are set up for rotation, are fertilized with poultry litter and are lush and beautiful. Protein blocks are supplied during part of the winter and loose sheep minerals are available year-round as free choice. All lambs are ear tagged and ewe lambs are docked. These lambs are walking meat machines. Being a St. Croix sheep person, I have to admit that there is no look of St. Croix left in the lambs. The ewes range in looks from that of a purebred St. Croix ewe to something more like a purebred Katahdin ewe. Some of the ewes have some color pattern and others are pure white. But the amazing thing is that the three month old lambs are nearly as big as the mamas but sport the look, color and



Another profitable F1 ewe.



Consistent lamb quality at 3 months old with top end lambs sold a month earlier.

thickness of the Dorper side of their breeding. When you see the quality of the udder on each ewe you realize a part of the puzzle as to why the lambs have done so well.

Before I left, another local commercial sheep breeder came by for a visit. Mr. Johnny Minish has used ewe lambs from Mr. Chandler's flock that were 25% St. Croix and has had good success in his own flock. He has also purchased some of the 25% St. Croix ram lambs to use as breeders in his flock. They have worked out for him in part of this year's lamb crop. He is interested in trying a St. Croix ram to hopefully clear up feet and hoof issues that have come into his flock from rams of other breeds.

The visit was quite a success for me to see F1 St. Croix ewes doing their part to make commercial breeders as economically successful as possible with the least amount of cost, and especially, with minimal labor. Mr. Chandler will be trying some of the daughters of his 2015 St. Croix ram in years to come and it will be interesting to see if a 75% St. Croix ewe can match what the F1 ewes have accomplished.

## Facebook Post:

This was posted on August 29, 2015 on our Facebook group, St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders:

I would like to take a moment and formally introduce our farm to this forum. We purchased our first set of St. Croix sheep from Mr. Billy F. Hearnberger about 1 1/2 years ago; we picked out a ram and two ewes. We were invested into Boer goats for several years, but ran out of patience for continuing with this breed that was not working out on our farm, for several reasons. We also purchased a set of Corsican sheep from a ranch in Mid-west Texas; a ram and 4 ewes. Over the next 1-2 years, we watched and waited, comparing the two breeds. There were several definite traits that were top priority in choosing which breed to keep on the farm.

- 1- Parasite resistance. We live in Southeast Texas, the gulf is just a few short miles from our home, making our area hot and humid.
- 2- Resistance to bacteria and disease to the overall health of the sheep. Our animals' medicine cabinet should not be larger than ours!
- 3- Exceptional mothering ability with twinning being a commonplace event each lambing season. We want those mothers delivering their babies without assistance, and introducing them to us when they feel ready!
- 4- The opportunity to expand and improve, and continue the exceptional traits of the breed, while maintaining the overall characteristics of what the breed is known for.
- 5- Gentle disposition is a plus when it comes to having a ram around the farm.

These characteristics proved evident in the St. Croix sheep. We made our decision to go with this breed, and purchased a new ram from Mr. Hearnberger just last week. Just a few days ago, a great opportunity fell into our lap. We have been able to purchase an entire registered herd, from Mr. David Reinhart, who is retiring from St. Croix sheep rearing after many successful years. I would like to personally thank each of these breeders for the impact they have and will have in the future of our farm.

With that said, I proudly declare, "We are official St. Croix seed stock breeders!"

4Boys Farm  
Damon & Jessica Mayfield  
Orange, Tx

---

## Glossary of Sheep Terms

This is another new section of the News and Views. There are some great words used around sheep. Some are funny, some are strange but all can be useful. Let us know your favorites.

**Bolus:** a pill that is given orally to a sheep

**Mastitis:** inflammation of the udder

**Blue bag:** gangrene of the udder, this is the most severe stage of mastitis

**Accelerated lambing:** management schedule in which ewes lamb more than once per year

**Flehmen or Flehman "lip curl":** a behavioral response of rams consisting of lip curling and head raising after smelling a ewe in estrus

**4 parts to a sheep stomach:** rumen, reticulum, omasum, abomasum

---

## St. Croix to Paint Croix

Ms. Yates Colby, Secretary

A SMALL aspect of my St. Croix breeding program is devoted to crossbreeding St. Croix with other breeds of colored hair sheep. So far I have only crossed my St. Croix with Katahdins. I recently acquired a Fullblood Dorper ram so I can see where the SC/Dorper fits into the results I desire. There are several aspects to my experiment with one goal in mind.

Definition of “experiment” according to [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com) (dictionary):

- 1) a scientific test in which you perform a series of actions and carefully observe their effects in order to learn about something,
- 2) something that is done as a test,
- 3) something that you do to see how well or how badly it works.



**MY GOAL:** Create breeding/replacement COLORED ewes that have all of the easy birthing and excellent mothering traits of SC but raise heavier, faster growing lambs.

As you can see from my goal, I am NOT breeding just for color. My St. Croix have pretty big frames (especially compared to my Dorper ram lamb), so frame size is not a concern at this time-just getting that frame more densely covered with muscle in a shorter amount of time.

Questions I have raised to myself as I do my evaluations of my project:

\*Is there a difference in ewes born from Katahdins covered by an SC ram and ewes born from SC covered by Katahdins (or another breed-none of those yet)? Pros/Cons?

\*Is there an advantage to a 75% SC/25% Other ewe over the 50% SC ewe? Pros/Cons?

\*Is there any use for a percentage ram?

To help answer the last question, I am retaining a quality 75% SC/25% Kat brown & white ram lamb, Ninja. All of his grandparents are exceptional breeding stock and his parents are no slouches either. When bred to a St.



Croix, Ninja's offspring will be 87.5% SC & 12.5% Kat. For me, that is a sufficient percentage to market colored lambs as PAINT CROIX. In the picture, his dam (brown & white pinto) is facing the camera to his right. No, her front legs do not usually look like that, but check out the breadth of her chest between those front legs. The other picture is of a 50/50 yearling ewe with striking color and a nice, deep body.

I have finally gotten to a place in my crossbreeding program where I had to set up pedigrees so I could keep lineages straight. These are designations I use on my pedigrees:

SCX=50% St. Croix & 50% Other / SCXX=75% St. Croix & 25% Other

PC=Paint Croix (I do not have any yet. I should have my first in 2016)

Time will tell about how far I want to cross back to St. Croix.. Just call me a sheep geek with Breeder Brain disease-always trying to create a better animal, whether it is purebred & registered or “an experiment”.

Disclaimer: My crossbred sheep are NOT associated with, documented or registered with the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders. My pedigrees and record keeping is completely done within my own flock using Flock Filer software.

## Lambing Time ...

Lambing time will be here before you know it. It is a dreadful feeling to need something and not have it on hand. Here are some ideas for what you might want to purchase ahead of time so you will be prepared. Fortunately, with St. Croix sheep it is rare to have lambing problems. Keeping good records starts at birth.

Items to have in your Lambing Kit:

### Must Have:

- ⇒ Umbilical disinfectant
- ⇒ Selenium injectable if your area is deficient (Bo-Se) / (Syringes & needles for selenium supplement)
- ⇒ A way to identify each of those white lambs-small ear tags, color markers, tattoo materials
- ⇒ Notepad & pen or a tablet so you can write down birth info

### Want To Have:

- ◇ Rags/towels
- ◇ Nitrile or latex exam gloves
- ◇ Lubricant: J-Jelly, J-Lube powder, Super Lube
- ◇ Nose bulb/nasal syringe to suck fluid from lamb's mouth
- ◇ Scale & sling for getting birth weights
- ◇ High energy supplement such as Nutridrench or Baby Lamb Strength from Pipestone Vet.
- ◇ Lamb nipple that will fit a soda bottle for feeding colostrum. You can also use a large syringe.

Another item to keep on hand is **COLOSTRUM** replacement powder or real colostrum milked from your sheep. Real colostrum can be frozen until you need it. If you have a lamb that needs colostrum, they will need it ASAP so have it readily available.

One of the bigger sheep supply companies has a Lamb Survival Kit that has several items put together in a 5 gallon bucket for convenience.

Feel free to share your Go-To items you use (and why you use them) during lambing season. We will post them in upcoming News & Views.



Baby Lamb picture courtesy of Sally Herigstad, Enumclaw, WA

## Business Card Corner

The News & Views will be offering an advertising opportunity for its members. We will now offer a Business Card Corner in the newsletter. It will cost \$5 per issue to have your business card displayed AS LONG AS you send me a DIGITAL copy of your business card. The cost will be \$10 if I receive a hard copy of your business card. Space permitting, it is not limited to your St. Croix Hair Sheep. Editor does reserve the right to refuse displaying cards that are not appropriate to the nature of our newsletter.

## Pups and More Pups

By Billy Hearnberger, Mud Puddle Ranch, Joaquin, TX

It is best to study this pictures for a bit because it is definitely worth a thousand words. First notice the Great Pyrenees Livestock Guardian Dogs in a row next to the barn quietly watching/protecting the flock. Then notice that ALL but one of the sheep are grazing. (Well, okay, another one is kind of looking at the photographer).



All the sheep grazing is a sign of a flock that feels safe from threats. They have learned the huge white dogs are always there so the sheep have no fear. Next, look at the one sheep that is not grazing. She is probably a young ewe who may have never seen such a small "LGD" and is wondering what to make of him.

And last but not least, check out that fearless Yorkie. He is a true terrier who has no clue that he is not as big as a Great Pyrenees. Obviously, he feels that it is his flock too. For some reason, the main flock is not afraid of the Yorkie either. Could it be his size? Perhaps it is because the flock has learned that the Livestock Guardian Dogs would not have let that small dog among the sheep if he was not "okay"? Safe sheep are happy sheep.

## News & Views

The newsletter for the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. [www.stcroixsheep.org](http://www.stcroixsheep.org)

P.O. Box 224 Days Creek, OR 97429 541-825-8580

For advertising or sharing material for publication please contact the editors: Yates Colby & Lynn Morgan

**President:** Eddie Martin  
[theebenezerfarm@gmail.com](mailto:theebenezerfarm@gmail.com)  
864-296-0454

**Vice President:** Lynne Vanderlinden  
[van@cavenet.com](mailto:van@cavenet.com)  
541-592-3444

**Secretary:** Ms. Yates Colby  
[secretary@stcroixsheep.org](mailto:secretary@stcroixsheep.org)  
509-688-5168

**Treasurer:** Billy Hearnberger  
[treasurer@stcroixsheep.org](mailto:treasurer@stcroixsheep.org)  
936-269-3839

### Directors

Malia Miller  
[sheep4brains@yahoo.com](mailto:sheep4brains@yahoo.com)

970-685-1942

Matt Morgan

[morganmatt@aol.com](mailto:morganmatt@aol.com)

502-648-9484

\*Eddie Martin

\*Billy Hearnberger

\*See contact info under Officers

### Registrars

George & Lynn Morgan  
[registrar@stcroixsheep.org](mailto:registrar@stcroixsheep.org)

541-825-8580

## New Members

The St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders would like to welcome these new members into the fold:

Lucy May/Charlee Benton, Buckettown Farm,  
Richmond, KY

Matt & Ulandi Brewer, Megaluno Ranch,  
Hardy, AR

Phaedra Craig, All Good Farm,  
Potter Valley, CA

David & Carol Gaines,  
Liberal, MO

Ray Glenn, Indian Springs Farm,  
Laurel, MS

Arthur L. Goetsch, Langston University,  
Langston, OK

Richard Hadzima,  
Palestine, TX

Gary & Sally Herigstad,  
Eumclaw, WA

Samuel J. Honeycutt, Honeycutt Farm,  
Mount Pleasant, NC

Kevin & Jacqueline Hyde, Galloping Acres,  
Purcellville, VA

Jennifer Jorgensen,  
Monroe, UT

Annette Keenberg, Circle K Ranch,  
Lake Los Angeles, CA

Tamara Lambdin-Abney, Aldenwood Farm 1,  
Richmond, KY

Bill & Lori Marion, Shasta Ranch,  
Klamath Falls, OR

Todd J. McClarin, Firefighter Farm,  
Peoria, AZ

Keith McKenzie,  
Louisville, KY

Avery Nisbet, Four Bellies Farm,  
Winterville, GA

Ronnie Sloan, Burnt Cabin Branch Farm,  
Gate City, VA

Rodney Stark, Sanctuary Ridge,  
Huggins, MO

Allie Tarver,  
Many, LA

Nicholas Tarver,  
Many LA

Cindy Turnbow,  
Longview, TX

Phillip Vroman,  
Litchfield, MI

Susanne Wilkerson, Old MacDonald's Farm,  
New Braunfels, TX

Monica Williamson, The Homestead,  
Hudson Oaks, TX

Stephen Wood,  
Greenville, SC

Rebecca Krider,  
Oak Harbor, WA

David C. Pullen,  
Huntersville, NC

Byron Saemon & Sarah Maryatt, R Time Farm,  
Tenino, WA

Thank you for joining us in enjoying St. Croix Hair Sheep.

\*\*This is the first time we have included a New Members list in the News & Views. If you are a new member from May 1-Nov. 1 2015 that has not been listed, please let the Secretary or the Registrar know so you can get recognized in the next N & V.