

1. This new association had no breed standard. At the direction of the Board at the 2012 Annual Meeting, a committee was formed in October to recommend one.
2. There was overwhelming support by the Board for the standard that the committee recommended.
3. The Board attempted to obtain member feedback via the first 2013 newsletter. Initially, very few responses were received, creating doubt as to the amount of participation that could be expected from a membership vote.
4. A sudden flurry of negative responses arrived. Some were from non-members, causing the Board to wonder how they were even aware of the issue. The answer became apparent when a post was received from a non-member who evidently forgot to delete the email that generated these responses. That email, sent privately, yet signed as a Director, was from a Board member who began lobbying to oppose the recommendation. It contained vague information that was inflammatory and deceptive, and suggested the recommended standard would destroy the breed. It also suggested the new standard would enable people to register sheep that were not full blood St. Croix.
5. It soon became apparent there was a collaborative effort by a very few to recruit opposition, making an unbiased membership vote impossible. Therefore, the Board voted to accept the breed standard recommended by the committee. This was perfectly legal under the by-laws, but the Board would have preferred untainted membership input.
6. The committee had been studying the breed standard for months and was privy to the best available information, including historic documents, professional papers and interviews. The Board felt capable of making a good decision.
7. The adopted standard allowed breeders the latitude to continue to breed as they have done for the last 40 years while also allowing others the latitude of using a wider genetic pool while staying true to the St. Croix breed. It is felt this will attract others to our breed, including commercial producers seeking that all-important parasite resistance.
8. There is no research to indicate that color or scurs are detrimental. In fact, they are inherent to the breed, which can only benefit from a wider genetic pool.
9. *At no time* has it ever been suggested that horns be allowed or any sheep be eligible for registration that is not the offspring of currently registered St. Croix sheep.