

St. Croix
Hair Sheep
Breeders,
Inc.



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Issue 2

www.stcroixsheep.org

News & Views

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE



Sometimes we feel isolated. A breed that has lesser numbers. Sheep people in a cow world. Farm people in an urban population. People do not understand or believe the advantages of St. Croix sheep and St. Croix crossed sheep. People who want to make a difference in a world of seeming indifference. Hair sheep in a wool sheep heritage. Hard to get the word out. Markets seem to come and go. We could go on here but I want to mention a few things that might help us all in unison from stories or tidbits, both local and afar. I joke about southerners since I am one of the offending population! When I use the word afar, it reminds me that

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ANNUAL MEETING—2018

Thinking about going to the 2018 Annual meeting but:

a) husband, b) wife, c) children, d) dog or e) all aforementioned do not want to go to Springfield, MO just for a huge and exciting farm festival/fair and a SCHSB annual meeting? **No problem.** Come to Springfield and still be happy. Springfield and the local area has “stuff”. For complete information go to springfieldmo.org

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NEWS & VIEWS

News & Views is the membership news letter of the SCHSB, published three times per year.

If you are not a member and are interested in becoming one, please contact us using the information on the back cover.

HAPPY READING!

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE...

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“around here” the fire (said “far”) trucks go out to fight and put out “afar”. Enough for a public service announcement from Smokey Bear and the resident redneck. Time to ramble:

A petite grandmother from Greenville County, SC enjoyed having animals. Within the last month she was rushed to the hospital with broken ribs, other broken bones and a punctured lung to go along with additional bruising and trauma. She was attacked by her pet ram. I do not know the breed but I doubt if it was a St. Croix. But all sheep breeders and want-to-be breeders please take note; this is a refresher course and a stark reminder. There are breeds of sheep known for aggressive rams. **Never forget it.** I have never found St. Croix rams to be aggressive but some owners have discussed it in their situations. If you bottle feed a ram lamb or if you give or sell a ram lamb to friends and neighbors to bottle feed there is a strong chance that the ram will have less or no fear of you or them when it is mature and will treat a human as a peer to the point of aggressive behavior. If you try to buddy up with your ram, if you keep him by himself and check on him like a dog to pet and pamper, please remember. We all like our sheep and think that little “Lamb Chop” or “Baa Baa” is cute but when the hormones kick in the cuteness can vanish. **Always remember. Never forget.**

Proper handling facilities: These are the best dollars you can spend and it does not have to be expensive. Make a chute or run with a few boards, two pieces of plywood, two hog panels or a wall and a panel and also have some sort of stop or gate on both ends.

Why? Another warning: If you crowd sheep into a narrow room or horse stall and do not realize that their #1 fright response is to run, you are standing in the only exit that the sheep can imagine, then the sheep will go by you, through your legs, over your shoulders or ram you in the torso (very hard on glasses in your shirt pocket not to mention the body) because to escape is to live. Don't learn to hate working sheep because you are not prepared. **Prepare.**

Networking: Have you ever called or emailed the St. Croix breeder who lives the closest to you or in an area where you might travel? You can find them on the website or even call a director and find out folks in your area, state or region. Do you try to find ways to get sheep to folks in distant locations who either want to start with our breed, need a new ram or just want to see what a St. Croix looks like? We have a few breeders in our local area that I know well enough to know that their sheep are quality animals, are well cared for and are probably disease free without a lot of in and out on the farms from sale barn sheep and such. Most are registered and some are commercial St. Croix sheep. There are needs and buyers for both but, if at all possible, please keep quality sheep registered for the good of the breed and for your long term economic benefit. When a potential sheep person calls me and I cannot help them or they are a long ways away I try to recommend a breeder closer to them or call the local breeders and see what is available. It can be a win-win sometimes. I helped one breeder sell all of his lamb crop last year and the buyer of the ewe lambs needed a ram of different breeding. I was able to meet them at

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ANNUAL MEETING—2018...

But for an idea or two: they have MO's largest machinery showroom, you'll be close to Branson, MO with all of the shows and entertainers, the Wonders of Wildlife Natural Museum and Aquarium is there and the largest Bass Pro Shop is next door, a National Battlefield is on the outskirts, there are plenty of museums, caverns, trails, restaurants, motels, shops and more. While you are there and having fun just do not forget about St. Croix sheep and your fellow members. We'd like to meet you and I would personally appreciate any help with the displays that you can offer. If you are want to come, check out the block of rooms with better prices for SCHSB members. See you there!

We have made arrangements with the Holiday Inn & Suites on I-44 and Glenstone Ave. Let them know you are with the SCHSB. We also have a block of 10 pens for sheep at the Farm Fest. They require a deposit of \$35 each from members. This will be reimbursed once it is confirmed the pen is being used. Sheep can be pre-arranged to be sold at Farmfest.

ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

SCHSB welcomes member submitted articles. Please feel free to submit and share any interesting tidbits, learning experiences, pearls of wisdom, management philosophies that work for you, etc.

Please send your document with any appropriate high resolution pictures to: secretary@stcroixsheep.org.

By sending us this information, you are acknowledging that the article and images are yours to send and that you approve the use in this publication and on our website.



Make Your Plans Now!

**2018
Ozark
Fall
FARMFEST**

39 YEARS

Friday October 5 9AM-5PM
Saturday October 6 9AM-5PM
Sunday October 7 9AM-4PM

**Ozark Empire Fairgrounds,
Springfield, Missouri**

Free Admission! Free Parking!

<https://www.facebook.com/OzarkFallFarmfest/>

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE...

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the local farm and deliver the ram to the buyers as they picked up the ewe lambs without them making a second 3 hour trip. The nearest sheep person you have never met is only a phone call or an email away. Give it a try and enjoy a common interest.

How sheep are handled on a daily basis: I had a friend to coin and use a new term the other day that I really liked. He said his sheep were "pasture wild". What he meant was that he had another job, did not baby his sheep and manages them like commercial sheep out in a pasture with guard animals. His sheep were not "wild-wild" but were not used to petting, small pens, coming up to see him every day, getting daily treats, etc. Researchers have also found that **sheep**, the animals created to be dumb by so many, **can remember and recognize people individually by their faces**. Hey, not so dumb, huh? Here on the farm, we also do not pet our sheep, they are mainly accustomed to only me and will come up to check me out but when people come (and for some reason especially when children come) the sheep will act like they are seeing ravenous wolves. I don't pretend to understand. It is amazing the difference of their behavior from the normally familiar person(s) versus a different number of people, a visitor or a different sized person or a child can make. I cannot explain it but it is what it is. The only reason to mention this is to discuss temperament of St. Croix sheep. Some can be naturally "dog gentle" and some can be stand-offish. That is totally different and tied to an individual animal's temperament. But if you go to look at sheep and are concerned about the temperament, please remember that the sheep can have reasons to act certain ways. Ask how they are handled,

how often they are handled, how often they are hand fed and such. Short term hand feeding can turn the wary sheep around in no time. It's just what they get used to, it seems. I find this to be pretty interesting. But let's wind up the rambling:

Annual Meeting: If you still feel isolated, if you want to get the word out about the benefits and strengths of St. Croix sheep, if you want to meet other St. Croix breeders, you don't have to feel that way anymore! In 2017 SCHSB had an online or teleconference annual meeting. It went very well and the guest speakers were relevant and helpful. This year we will be having the **2018 SCHSB annual meeting in Springfield, MO** coinciding with the Ozark Farm Fest. It is an opportunity to be in the middle of the USA, in a "sheep region" where there are already established hair sheep flocks in the form of Katahdins and will also allow SCHSB members up to three days at the festival to visit with each other and meet farm folks to discuss how the St. Croix breed can fit onto farms, including existing cattle operations or improve the commercial sheep flocks in the Ozark region or anywhere. There will be more articles in this edition of News and Views with details, but will you please consider joining us for at least a day, two or three, or to drop in and say "Hi"? If you can attend and want to support the St. Croix breed, please let a director or officer know so that we can schedule you to help greet folks at the pens and table and discuss the breed's advantages. **I want to meet you and I hope to see you there.** For me, meeting members face to face is a real treat. As the old saying goes, "It puts a face with a name" but it also builds a deeper relationship to help when we discuss things, email or talk about things

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PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE...

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in the future. Hope to see you there from both near and “afar”.

Eddie



SCHSB MISSION STATEMENT

Establish a central organization (within the United States) to register, promote, and develop the growth of the St. Croix breed of sheep.

Define the distinguishing characteristics of the breed and establish specific minimum standards for registering individual animals

Insure that individual animals meet specified criteria in order to be registered as members of the St. Croix breed

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ADVERTISING

All N&V publications are emailed to every member on the dates below. You have the option to purchase a mailed copy of N&V (3 editions per year) for \$15 if you prefer.

Publications will be sent on 2/1, 6/1 and 10/1. Cut off dates for articles and ads are: 1/15, 5/15 and 9/15.

The full color ad sizes available for the publication are as follows:

Name,	Size(s),	Single	Year (x3)
Business Card	3.5" x 2"	\$15	\$40
Quarter Page	3.25" x 4.5"	\$30	\$75
Half Page	7" x 4.5" or 3.25" x 9.5"	\$55	\$140
Full Page	7" x 9.5"	\$90	\$240

Please note these prices assume you have acceptable artwork available for publication. If you do not have artwork available one can be created for you for free (business card text format only) or a fee (see below). Artwork should be one of the following formats: jpg, tif, tiff, png, pdf, ai, cdr, doc, docx, pub, eps. Art should either be in vector graphics format or stored with at least 300DPI. The publication is in color and images will be converted to RGB for web publication and CYMK for paper production. There should be no passwords on any files submitted. We do not accept any responsibility for any errors in your artwork. **Scanned ads are not acceptable!**

You have a couple of ways to request ads. You may use the online form available on our website. This is the easiest way as it also allows

you to pay online using check, debit or credit card via Paypal (you do not need to have a Paypal account). The form is located at: <http://stcroixsheep.org/ad-request>. Alternatively you may send an email to ads@stcroixsheep.org with your request and artwork. If your artwork is too big, we have a Dropbox that you can use to upload your file. When you request an ad by email you will need to send a check and will receive a reminder to do so (with the correct address) via email.

Creation of Artwork for Ads

We can prepare your artwork for you for a fee. Artwork for a business card sized ad will be created for **free** if you only want text. There will be no images and we reserve the right to edit your text to fit. You have room for a short phrase or sentence to describe your business along with your farm name, your name and address a phone number and your email. If your text is too long we will edit it as necessary without contacting you.

If you want a business card ad with images or a larger sized ad created, then there will be a one off charge. Just let us know you want artwork created (using the ads@stcroixsheep.org email or [online form](#)) and the editor will contact you to discuss your requirements. The artwork created can be used as many times as necessary without another charge (even in other publications). The additional one off fees are as listed (Prices may vary depending on your requirements with the additional fee being charged separately):

Our editor also provides website creation and hosting for farms and businesses at a reasonable fee. If you have any questions about these services please contact them directly at richard@chventures.com.