



News and Views

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From the President

by Eddie Martin




We all unknowingly fall into the habit of patterns in our activity, dress, work and speech. My wife used to get a chuckle out of the phone conversations that I had with my mother. We started off with, "What's

news?" The reply would be, "Don't know it!" How long that took to develop or how long it existed is beyond me. But we all get a newsletter, a newspaper or a magazine and our mind immediately goes into the mode of "What's new?"

I've got a different answer for each or you this time; "nothing new!" You already know all of my St. Croix news from the letter you received from Kathy and me just a few weeks ago. The Association is making progress, we're doing the right thing and the future is bright. No need for me to rehash the ball game beyond

Monday morning, but your questions and suggestions are greatly welcomed.

During 2012 I would ask that you continue to do the right things in your flock that will promote, improve and perpetuate the breed. Some of these tasks might be your usual good habits, yet a few new actions may need to be New Year resolutions for each of us. The basics are to keep good records, to make proper selections, to maintain the expected flock health work, increase the health protocol in your flock, as needed, and ultimately to sell only the sheep that you'd want anyone to associate with your name and reputation. Chiefly, remember that your flock is a piece of the genetic puzzle in a breed with a limited gene pool. What you do and how you breed really does create a reaction in the whole scope of things.

Happy Holidays to each of you and your families. 

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News and Views

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All membership dues will be collected by Associated Registries. A membership application/registration/transfer worksheet can be found on our web site at www.stcroixsheep.org. Call the registrar for clarification or to ask a question concerning registration or transfer. Please mention our association name and ask for Karey.


Study Conclusion - Look for Resistant Animals to Best Control Parasites

By Eddie Martin

During a visit to Louisiana in May of 2011, I was invited to ride to the campus of LSU to hear a thesis presentation on parasite control in sheep. The methods that attempted to control gastric worms were a trial using COWP, a trial using COWP compared to a group receiving both COWP (ground copper particles) and CuSO₄ and a third trial using pelletized sericea lespedeza and COWP. There are minimums, maximums, dose levels, days and weeks to discuss on each of these trials but the summary of results probably help us the most in our applications of parasite control on our own farms. Basically, the copper sulfate was ineffective in the control of internal parasites.

The *S. Lespedeza* pellets fed at 25% of the lambs' diet did not harm the parasite larvae in the sheep, but the sheep gained better due to the increased level of protein in the diet. For this group, the overall number of larvae did not change, but the percentage of copperia larvae increased and the percentage of contortus larvae decreased so that the lambs were carrying about the same load of internal parasites.

A dose of 2 grams of COWP (oral) had no effects on the internal parasites in ewes. Doses of 4 grams of COWP (oral) in ewes had a slight reduction when orally administered every two weeks. Doses of 2 grams of COWP (oral) in lambs made some slight improvements in gain, but nothing noteworthy.

After the presentation was completed, a time of questions and answers was allowed. A professor asked the young masters candidate what she thought would be the next steps to take in the continuance of her research. She said that in one of the trials there were several sheep that never had elevated levels of internal parasites and they maintained the low level throughout the study period. She thought that it would be best to select breeding stock that had natural resistance to internal parasites like those individuals. One thing that we can learn from this study is that improved diet can reduce the effects of parasitism. I came away with the comfort that the St Croix breed is ahead of the game of academic research if we continue to select for resistance and cull for susceptibility in regards to internal parasites. Who wants to orally dose their sheep every two weeks or have additional feed costs? 

At the Oregon State Fair

By Linda Barnes



Ely Crawford giving a presentation on St. Croix sheep for his 4-H project. He was using a Dorsey Lee Farms ram, DL Eligh. As he was talking, a crowd gathered and gave him a round of applause when he finished for his grade A presentation. He made some graphics and pictures and covered the St. Croix breed and all their attributes very well. Ely was also showing several of his own St. Croix in 4-H at the Fair and helped present the Barnes sheep in the open class.

Some of the gals, Vicki, Mindy and Lorie



Ed Barnes with Reserve Champion Ram, DL Eligh



Jean Patterson with her Grand Champion Ram

Sue Swan's Champion Ewe



The Hamstreets - Winners of Get of Sire


Stephanie Breazile Shines in County and State Fair



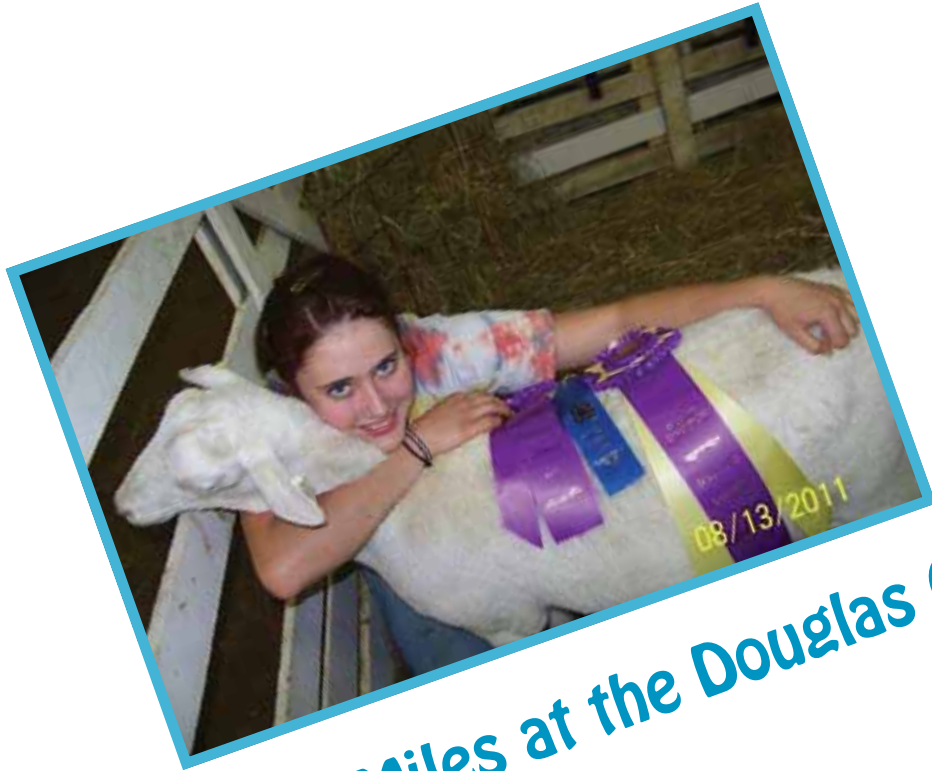
FFA student, Stephanie Breazile, showed 9 St. Croix sheep in the Washington County fair in Oregon. She did well in the breeding classes, taking 1st and 2nd in Spring Ewe Lamb, 1st in Yearling Ewe, 1st in Producing Ewe, 1st and 2nd in Spring Ram Lamb, 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Yearling Ram, Grand Champion Ram and, Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Ewe.

In the FFA all breeds competition she did quite well winning Reserve Champion Supreme Ewe over Suffolk, Meat Cross, Romney and Hampshire ewes.

Stephanie also showed two St. Croix in the FFA classes at the Oregon State Fair.

Shown here are pictures of Stephanie and friends showing St. Croix sheep in these two fairs. 





Rebecca Miles at the Douglas County Fair

Rebecca Miles did well with her St. Croix ewe lamb, Izzy, in the Douglas County Fair held in Roseburg, Oregon. She won a 1st Place and Grand Champion ribbon in conformation classes, and a Grand Champion ribbon again in showmanship competition.
Congratulations Rebecca!

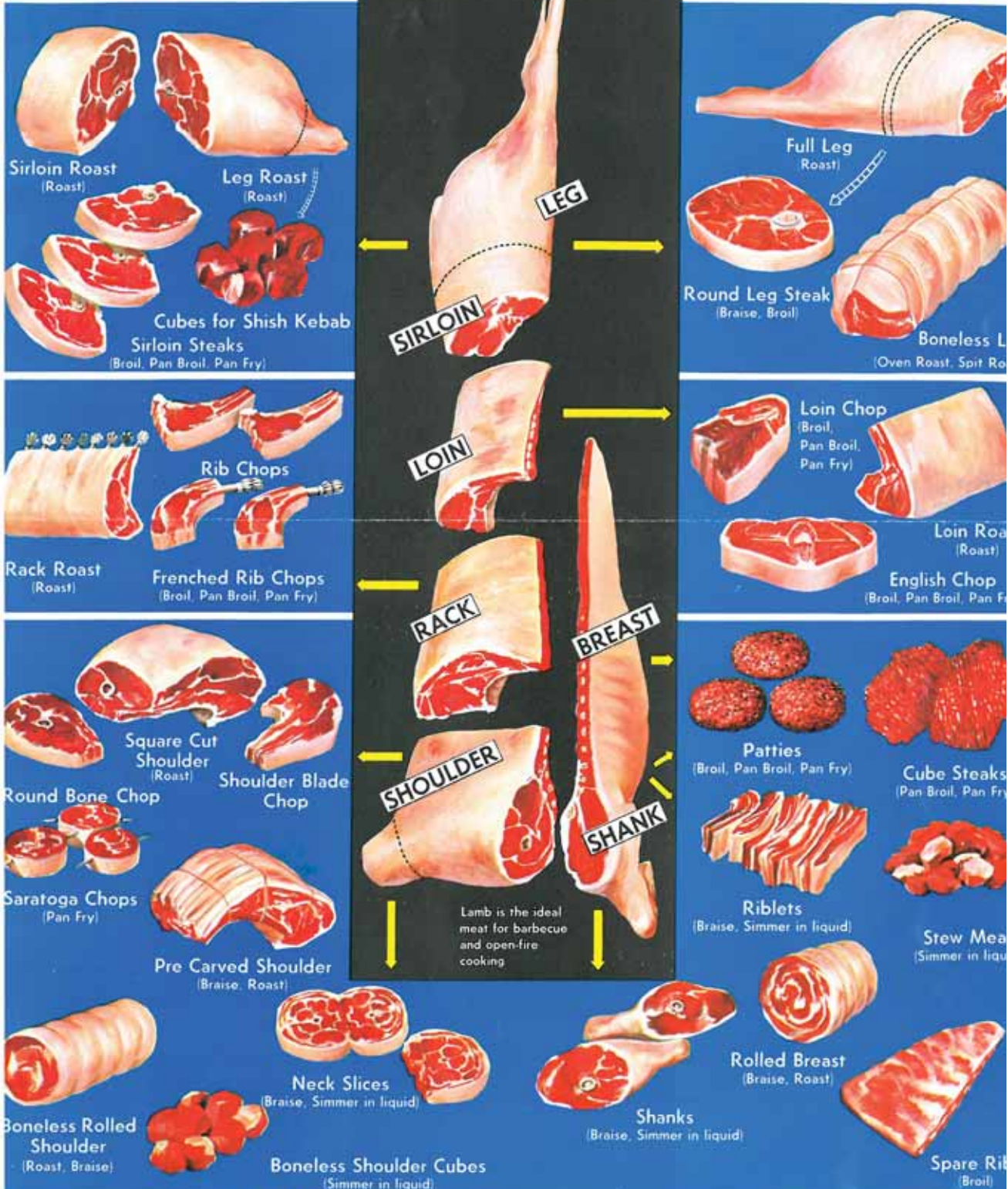


Lamb

Retail Cuts

Wholesale Cuts

Retail Cuts



LAMB CUTS AND HOW TO COOK THEM

LAMB EDUCATION CENTER
 100 CLAYTON STREET
 DENVER, COLORADO 80202

Simply Delicious Lamb Vindaloo

Jessie Grearson

Simply Delicious Lamb Vindaloo

1 lb. boneless lamb stew meat, trimmed and cut to 1 inch cubes

4 garlic cloves

2 tablespoons fresh ginger,

1 teaspoon cumin

2 teaspoons garam masala

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper (or to taste, depending on your spice tolerance)

½ cup low fat plain yoghurt

¼ cup light olive oil

1 cup tomato puree

1/4 cup sour cream

Salt and fresh pepper to taste (about 1/2 teaspoon of each)

3-4 tablespoons freshly minced cilantro

Directions:

Prepare lamb and set aside.

Blend garlic, ginger, cumin, garam masala, cayenne and yoghurt together. Stir in lamb chunks and marinate for 15 minutes to overnight.

Heat oil to shimmering in a large nonstick pan. Cook lamb chunks and yoghurt marinade for 8-10 minutes. Reduce heat and stir in tomato puree. Simmer over medium-low heat for 5-7 minutes, until sauce is somewhat reduced. Stir in salt and pepper to taste. Lower heat and simmer, covered, for 30 minutes more, or until meat is tender. Turn heat to very low, and gently stir in sour cream until heated through. Remove from heat and sprinkle before serving with fresh chopped cilantro. Serve vindaloo with dollops of additional yoghurt and basmati rice, or freshly heated naan.

This recipe from Jessie Grearson won the American Lamb Board's "Best American Lamb Family Recipe."

So, what's it like presenting your hair sheep at a Sheep and Wool Festival?

By Bob Bokma, Germantown, MD

The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival (MSWF) is an annual event held at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD, during the first full weekend in May. Their website is <http://www.sheepandwool.org/> and this year was the 38th annual event. And yes, the MSWF features the wool breeds as well as everything wool. The crowds are there for a number of reasons, not the least of which are spinning, buying wool, buying yarn and supplies for knitting and such. However, the crowds include folks associated with rural life, sheep and other livestock, and entire families that are there for a great weekend event. This year the festival coincided with Mother's Day, since the previous weekend was not fully in May and the second Sunday of May was also during the first full May weekend. This did not slow down the crowds at all - I must have wished 50 moms a Happy Mother's Day! I did have to do a little fancy talking to get my wife to agree to let me go during Mother's Day weekend.

This particular event is nice in that they also host a mixed breed event called the Sheep Breeds Display. One full barn is dedicated to hosting as many breeds as possible. This year some 35 breeds were represented. They are trying to increase this to 50 breeds. So several hair breeds were included! Besides St. Croix, there were Dorpers, Katahdins, Barbados, and Painted Dove.

The breed display coordinators, Alex, Karen and Konner Sowell, have this down now to a fine art. Everyone has where to go, everything clean, a bale of straw per pen, etc. Each presenter was allowed at least two stalls.

How did I get into this? Well the O'Neills from Suffolk, VA, used to cover the event, but it was quite a haul for them. So Linda was happy to let me do it. She had been quite loyal for several years. And since I live only about 30 miles from West Friendship, it was pretty hard

to refuse when Karen Sowell contacted me last year. I was able to travel there Saturday morning, unloading and fully setting up by about 8:00 am with no problem. My son Carl came along to help me unload the older ram and to steer the still shedding contingency towards the two stalls reserved for me. I wound up taking a couple of rams (one a yearling that I had not yet sold, but sold during the weekend) as well as one ewe with April-born twin lambs on her. Kathy Bennett had sent me the Association's banner which I set up in an adjacent stall. She also had sent me Association pamphlets. After hauling and accommodating a bale of hay, a pail of grain, a couple of buckets for water, and a folding chair, I also hung a few flyers. I was ready!

I had refreshed a bit on the breed's attributes and history, as well as St. Croix hair sheep genetics – African breeding and not European!

Of course the spinners came by and wanted samples of the "wool," some claiming that they could spin that nice down even with all that hair in it. Some were rather incredulous that the fiber is essentially waste material. So we would chat about possible uses into mats, coarse rugs, rope and the like, and how one could potentially harvest the hair and down.

The curious asked about the use of St. Croix potentially as a dairy breed. So I talked about their excellent milking quality. Too bad that the latest "News and Views" arrived a day too late, such a nice article by Lynne Vanderlinden about the Pelzels' Persimmon Creek Farm milking ewes.

But best of all, the commercial flock folks stopped by quite a bit, interested in hearing about the breed's strengths - disease and parasite resistance, year around breeding, and shedding coats - Look Maw, No Shearing! Now this makes sense!

How many crosses to St. Croix does it take

to get the shedding trait effectively established in a wool sheep flock? Well, I don't know an exact answer to this, but I said that two crosses would do quite a number on the wool. At the event I also ran across several owners of Katahdin and Dorper cross commercial flocks, and several were interested in increasing their flock's parasite resistance. Lots of good contacts made! I sent one person from southern Virginia towards Linda O'Neill, so be on the lookout Linda!

On Sunday I was not going to mess around with the "Parade of Sheep Breeds," but since

my visiting wife and a lady friend had not yet arrived, I changed my mind, put a halter on my ram, and lined him up among other "S" breeds and ahead the "T's" (American Tunis). He did not mind too much being behind a couple of Suffolk ewes. And he showed well!

All in all, it was quite easy, and it was fun. This second year, I again learned a lot by going to this event. And I sold a ram that was to be used starting the next week crossing breed a Katahdin flock that had lambed a few months previously! It was a very good decision to go to the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival! **NU**

Sell Those Sheep Using the Association's Website

By Kathy Bennett, Association Secretary

This is a great time to own sheep, especially St. Croix sheep. When lamb prices are at an all time high, more people are considering raising sheep. Many potential buyers are attracted to the combination of desirable features found in St. Croix. Their docile temperaments, outstanding mothering, frequency of multiple births, parasite resistance, and no shearing make them rewarding to raise, and their gourmet meat makes them attractive to buyers.

The newly renovated St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders Association website (www.stcroixsheep.org) has a feature that will enable you to reach an unlimited audience regarding St. Croix sheep that you have for sale or are wanting to purchase. The **Buy St. Croix** page, marked on the left side of the home page, will direct all interested parties to a page that will contain dated notices. People who are looking at the Association website for information about the St. Croix breed will be able to see what is currently available for purchase. This differs from the Breeders page, which allows potential buyers to see where members are located. The **Buy St. Croix** page will feature more details and

can be changed when desired.

Entries on the **Buy St. Croix** page will be dated so interested parties have an idea how current they are. The ads will remain on the page for two months and will be continued beyond that period if the member requests. All ads for the **Buy St. Croix** page should be sent to rbr15863@hughes.net and will be posted immediately. If your information needs updating or if you sell the animals advertised, please let me know so I can remove or modify your ad.

We hope this feature will bring prompt and successful sales for all who partake of it. Please let me know if there is any other way I can improve this benefit for you. **NU**



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St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. Newsletter

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www.stcroixsheep.org

- Easy Care
- No Shearing

First in Internal Parasite Resistance

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Sheep That Work Better For You!