



# News and Views

Volume 1, Issue 2

April/May/June 2012

## From the President

by Eddie Martin



**H**ello to each of you. We made it through a mild winter, and a beautiful spring came early here in the Southeast with adequate moisture, so I feel like we are better off than in some of the past years. I wish that you could see the variety of clovers and legumes doing well in the pastures. This has been a long term effort to improve the forage quality of the pastures and to decrease the use of commercial fertilizer.

All of us have St. Croix sheep because we like the breed, but we still think about costs and profit. We often read about the price of feed, the nutrient contents of hay, grain and pastures with the thought that our sheep probably need feed, more feed and better feed! Yet, we must remember that St. Croix sheep are not supposed to look "blocky", "round" or "boxy". There are surely better terms, but you know the look I am trying to describe.

Unique breeds of livestock, like St. Croix sheep, have different traits which allow them to be survivors in natural settings and highly efficient in controlled environments. This is old news, but just the fact that our sheep do not grow wool makes them more efficient than the typical wool sheep. Another trait that is inherent to St. Croix sheep is the trend to deposit internal fat around organs prior to the external rind fat being obvious to our visual or manual inspections.

I am often asked these questions: "What supplemental feed do I need to provide my sheep?", "I read that a sheep needs X pounds of grain a day...how much do you feed your sheep?", "How long do you wait to breed your ewe lambs?" All of these questions, in some way, assume that St. Croix sheep are just like all wool breeds. Unfortunately for us, the majority of research has been conducted on wool breeds of sheep.

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# News and Views

**St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc.**

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

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Here are some general things I try to remember about St. Croix sheep.

- If ewe lambs are fat, they may look more “sheep-like” but will have a low rate of conception, will have more lambing problems and will probably have a lower lifetime milk production.
- By not producing wool, our sheep can graze lower quality forages and do well.
- Feeding rams and ram lambs grain can cause problems later with urinary tract stones.
- Flushing ewes with additional feed prior to breeding should only be a short term effort.
- Forcing market lambs and replacement ewe lambs to gain at a rate beyond their genetic potential causes them to gain additional pounds of fat instead of additional pounds of muscle.
- Holding ewe lambs to an older age to breed is detrimental if they become too fat prior to breeding or lambing.
- Supplemental feeding of ewes during early lactation increases milk production and links directly to higher weaning weights in the lambs.
- “Time grazing” of a high quality pasture or species increases the harvested amount of the forage and is a means to balance the needs of your flock.

“To feed or not to feed ... that is the question!” No Shakespeare here, but think about where you spend your feed budget and the effects it has on the health of your sheep and your pocketbook. Let’s make it work the best for both us and our sheep. **NV**

## St. Croix Membership

**St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc.**  
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**641-942-6402**

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](http://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.



*Lambs in the Clover at Stauber Farm in North Carolina*

## Member Profile:

**Malia Miller**

## “Sheep for Brains”



by Lynne Vanderlinden

That's the catchy email handle used by member Malia Miller who, along with her merry band of St. Croix, recently relocated from Arizona to her childhood home of Loveland, Colorado.

During her Arizona years, both Malia and daughter Stacy had a very successful show career, twice winning her breed division at the Arizona National with a ram and a ewe. Of 20 breeds, hers were the only hair sheep in the ring contending for Supreme Champion! She also shared a rather comical (in hindsight) experience at a county fair, where a novice judge placed a Dorper over hers because of its "greater potential for wool production."

Stacy followed her mom's footsteps into the 4-H sheep program, raising and showing Suffolk type club lambs, with a little side trip into the Romney breed. When Stacy's 4-H career was over, Malia found she didn't want to stop showing. After shearing and fitting up to 14 sheep several times a year for the shows they were attending, they became a tad burned out. She says, "Hair sheep? No shearing? Hook me up! I had been researching them for a couple of years already and selected the St. Croix for all the reasons you choose a hair breed. They are beautiful, elegant sheep, and I am so glad I have them. There is nothing I don't like about them - nothing. Because the St. Croix are all that they are, my daughter found that sheep are a part

### *Malia Miller & St. Croix*


of who she is and we're back doing our sheep thing together. That alone makes them the best breed ever!"

And the legacy doesn't end there. Malia has two of her granddaughters, Kimmie (9) and Megan (10), in "Shepherdess Training." They will be fitting and showing with Malia and Stacy this summer.

Malia downsized her flock to make the long trek north, but her rams went to work in their new digs and will be the proud papas of more bouncing baby St. Croix in May.

Even though their county fair doesn't have open classes, she intends to show at both the Wyoming and Colorado State Fairs and the National Western Livestock Show this year.

Certainly no grass growing under *her* feet!

Malia can be reached at (what else?) [sheep4brains@yahoo.com](mailto:sheep4brains@yahoo.com). She has Swan, USU, Burch, Oak, Churchill and Harris lines. 





# Annual Meeting to be Held in Kentucky

*By Kathy Bennett and Joyce Keibler*

**H**UGE thanks to Joyce and Gary Keibler for planning our 2012 annual meeting. They have outdone themselves in lining up a spectacular assortment of events and vacation opportunities, making this year's meeting a destination event. The meeting itself will be held on Saturday, June 16, but there are special opportunities for members on Friday and Sunday. Held in **Louisville, KY**, attendees will have a chance to visit several livestock enterprises and local attractions. The Louisville area is home to many historic and popular tourist places. Plan to attend and combine a meeting with fellow St. Croix breeders with the opportunity to visit unique and interesting restaurants, distilleries, shops and, of course, the Kentucky Derby location.

The agenda is below. **Please let the Kieblers know that you will attend and which activities you would like to join. Also, Because the lunch after the meeting will be catered, please RSVP to Joyce or Gary Keibler at**

**502 767 3475 (Joyce cell)**

**502 386 1648 (Gary cell)**

**502 228 3860 (home)**

## FRIDAY- JUNE 15, 2012

9:00 am **Visit University of KY, Sheep Unit in Versailles, KY.**

Versailles is about a 45 minute drive from the reserved hotels (see the next page for these hotels). The Kieblers can get directions for anyone not staying in Louisville, the night of June 14th, so they can meet the group at UK.

Dr Don Ely and staff will give a tour, answer questions, and he will give a few short lectures on any topic we wish. Some topic requests so far are: testing for Ram soundness, information about feet issues and a nutritional discussion.

## FRIDAY- JUNE 15, 2012, cont.

11:30 **Visit Kay Cloyd's Kathadin Farm, Versailles, KY.** Kay has been in the business many years and is a knowledgeable shepherd. She has a beautiful, small farm near the sheep unit.

12:30 **Lunch in the area.**

**AFTERNOON-CHOICE OF 2 ACTIVITIES/ OPTIONS**--we may need to split into 2 groups, depending on what attendees wish to do.

CHOICES: "bourbon and horses" are KY's biggest industries. Members will get an opportunity to see what goes on in KY, as businesses.

1. Visit **Woodford Reserve Distillery.** [www.woodfordreserve.com](http://www.woodfordreserve.com) They offer a free tour. A group guide can be arranged when the Kieblers have an estimate of how many people would like to see the distillery.

Woodford Reserve is in Versailles. It will be an easy drive back to Louisville that afternoon.

2. Visit **The University of KY Equine farm.** It is also in this area. They breed thoroughbreds on this farm and do equine research. It is in "Horse Country", near the KY HORSE PARK and a scenic drive from UK's Sheep Unit.

It will be a free tour by Frank Berry, who works for UK. He is also a sheep enthusiast, and is a wealth of information about sheep, even though he is now working with horses.

Elizabeth Arden, perfume tycoon, donated this farm to the University of KY, many years ago.

Depending on the tour times at Woodford Reserve, it is possible, we could do both events and still be heading back to Louisville before dinner. It is all interstate driving, so the commute is easy.

FRIDAY- JUNE 15, 2012, cont.

**EVENING:** Reservations can be made for a large group dinner somewhere near the hotel or people can do their own thing. There are numerous places to eat in the area, Outback, O'Charleys, Cheddars, StoneyRiver to name a few chains, but there are about 20+ places within 1-2 miles of the hotel.

## SATURDAY-JUNE 16, 2012

9 am **St Croix business meeting @ Hemmer Hill Farm.**

### Call for Nominations

Nominations for director positions will be taken at the annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, in Louisville, KY. Please plan to attend and contribute to this important process for our organization. If you are unable to attend the meeting but know of someone who can serve this group well as a director, please email Eddie Martin at [theebenezerfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:theebenezerfarm@yahoo.com) or Kathy Bennett at [rbr15863@hughes.net](mailto:rbr15863@hughes.net) with the name(s).

11:30 Tour of the Kiebler's farm.

Lunch and social time, at our barn. We have a covered area, in case of rain, where we can seat a large group. A "buffet catered lunch" will be provided.

1 pm Drive to Bloomfield/Bardstown, KY to visit Matt & Kelli Morgan's farm. They are a young couple who raise St. Croix and cattle. They grass feed and are very nutrition conscious. They have a few hundred acres and do a good job with rotational grazing. Kelli is a MD and Matt is a DMD. Matt is very interested in genetics of sheep.

Open/Free time: Bardstown, KY is a historical little town in KY. It is the home of "My Old KY Home." There are many quaint antique shops, good restaurants, a cathedral, more distilleries and Bernheim Forrest. If you would

like to do "tourist" stuff, there is plenty to keep you busy.

The Kiebler's will gather information from the Chamber of Commerce/Louisville Visitors Bureau and have it available to anyone wishing to arrive early or stay a few days after the meeting. Mammoth Cave National Park is about 2 hours south of Louisville. It is a amazing park, for those interested in caves. Of course, Churchill Downs (home of the KY Derby) is minutes from the Louisville International Airport.

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

The Kiebler's have rooms blocked at 2 hotels, within 5-6 miles of their farm.

1. Hilton Garden Inn @ \$119/night. It is in a nice shopping area, walking distance to stores and dining places.

2. Hampton Inn @ \$82/night. A mile or so further from our house, but they have free breakfast.

Both are located on the interstate and easy to find.

**Guests need to confirm rooms before May 14, 2012 at Hilton Garden Inn to secure the Kiebler's rate. **



*New Twins at Mud Puddle Ranch in east Texas*

# ANIMAL WELFARE APPROVED GRANT AWARDED TO ST. CROIX BREEDER

*Edutir's Note: Kentucky St. Croix breeder Joyce Keibler has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Animal Welfare Approved organization. Her idea to establish shade structures for rotational grazing was met with great enthusiasm, resulting in her award. Joyce hopes to have one of the shade structures ready for members to see at the annual meeting, which will be held at her farm. Plan to attend and see what this is all about.*

## HEMMER HILL FARM AWARDED 2011-2012 GOOD HUSBANDRY GRANT FROM ANIMAL WELFARE APPROVED


**C**restwood, KY – Hemmer Hill Farm was recently awarded a Good Husbandry Grant from Animal Welfare Approved, the nation's most highly regarded third-party certification program and food label for sustainable, high-welfare, pasture-based farming.

AWA has been helping to promote innovative, forward-thinking farming practices through its Good Husbandry Grants program for four years now, funding projects across the nation that improve animal welfare and allow pasture-based farmers to increase productivity for their operations.

Hemmer Hill Farm, AWA-certified for meat sheep and breeding stock, was awarded funding for to facilitate increased outdoor access for sheep. AWA Program Director Andrew Gunther offered his congratulations to farmer Joyce Keibler saying, "We received so many excellent proposals, it was difficult to choose from among the worthy applicants. Being selected is indeed an honor and we look forward to working with Hemmer Hill Farm to make this project a success."

In announcing this year's grant recipients, Gunther shared his excitement about the

growing effect and potential for the Good Husbandry Grants program, saying, "While the projects themselves are hugely important, we are seeing impacts far beyond the individual farm. Farmers talk – they know what works and what doesn't. As farmers discover the benefits of high-welfare, pasture-based farming, more are giving it a try, and we are grateful to be a part of that transition. At the heart of it, our program provides an alternative to industrial agriculture - one which not only improves animal welfare but sustains farming families and provides healthy, nutritious food for the rest of us."

For more information about Hemmer Hill Farm visit AWA's farm profiles page. For more information about AWA's Good Husbandry Grants, including a complete list of this year's winning proposals and profiles of completed projects, visit <http://www.animalwelfareapproved.org/farmers/>. 



*Animal Welfare Approved is a national nonprofit organization that audits, certifies and supports farmers raising their animals according to the highest welfare standards, outdoors on pasture or range. Called a "badge of honor for farmers" and the "gold standard," AWA has come to be the most highly regarded food label when it comes to animal welfare, pasture-based farming, and sustainability. All AWA standards, policies and procedures are available on the AWA website, making it one of the most transparent certifications available.*

Animal Welfare Approved's Online Directory of AWA farms, restaurants and products enables the public to search for AWA farms, restaurants and products by zipcode, keywords, products and type of establishment.



# Sheep vs. Sheep - Wool or Hair, What's the Best?

*Editor's Note: A similar article, by Todd Macfarlane, appeared in the Stockman Grass Farmer March, 2012 Issue. Todd was quite complimentary of hair sheep in general and St. Croix in particular. We have reprinted this article here (with permission) because we believe it helps clarify the decision that is made in choosing a breed of sheep.*

**L**et's tackle the question/choice of hair sheep vs. wool sheep. Maybe that's like debating which is better, Ford or Chevy. But there are probably a few more considerations that we ought to factor into the equation.

## End of Wool Subsidies

There was a time (up until about 20 years ago) when the USDA paid a healthy government fiber subsidy on both wool and mohair. At that time, regardless of market conditions, fiber was a significant added bonus in the sheep and goat production business. At that time (before the American meat goat industry started to take off), most goats raised in this country were Angora goats, raised almost exclusively for their mohair. Likewise, hair sheep were almost unheard of.

Along with the phase-out of the fiber subsidies, during much of that time frame (10-15) years, the wool market had been in the dumps, with prices some times so low that it didn't even cover the cost of shearing.

## Advent of Synthetic Fibers

With the advent of more and more synthetic fibers, and major changes in the textile industry, the demand for wool, especially in this country, has declined substantially. While other countries, particularly including China, still have significant market demand for wool, that demand had been met primarily by Australia and New Zealand that have even stronger Asian trading relationships, so production of Merino and other wool breeds has still remained strong in those countries. But in the United States,

large-scale commodity sheep production shifted almost exclusively to meat breeds, dominated by Suffolk, Columbia and Rambouillet crosses.

## Popularity of Larger Sheep

These sheep were larger-framed, fast growing, and often weaned a lamb at around 100 lbs in about five months on good feed, but didn't produce as much or as high a quality wool -- because wool was no longer much of a consideration.

I remember well one of Allan's AI's Obs columns a few years ago in which he postulated that with the then steadily declining demand for wool, and the hard work and labor intensity of harvesting it (without any major technological breakthroughs like the cotton gin on the horizon to replace hard manual labor), the labor intensity of wool sheep production (and the fact that there seem to be less and less people who are willing to work that hard) would be an increasingly hard sell to producers, and sheep numbers would continue to decline in this country. And that has certainly been the case.

## Grassfed Advantages

Although grass-fed, pastured production may not seem to be as much of a consideration with fiber, in addition to production cost advantages, there are also other advantages -- including cleanliness of the wool. Sheep that spend most of their time on good grass pastures typically have much cleaner wool than those who eat hay out of managers, especially if there is any elevation in the manger set-up, requiring them to eat from an "overhead" position.

For the past year or so, however, just like the lamb market, the American wool market has been exceptionally strong, driven by many of the same factors and considerations, including global supply and demand, and currency markets, which dictate much international trade. In light of current market conditions, whether that trend will continue or not is hard to say.

### Wools for Fiber Artists

Nonetheless, even before commodity fiber markets began to rise last year, in some areas a fairly strong, small-scale demand had already been developing for specialty wools and yarn for fiber artists. Consequently, depending on where you live and marketing potential (and you better be prepared to be a fairly aggressive direct marketer) for flocks of 100 head or less, it might be worthwhile to look seriously at doing something with specialty wool (including Merino, Lincoln, Romney, Icelandic, Navajo Churro, etc.), in addition to meat – especially if you are already direct marketing your lambs. I add the caveat about direct marketing the lambs because wholesale commodity lamb buyers generally discount anything but the predominant meat breeds, including both wool and hair sheep, typically because they are smaller framed, slower maturing, and finish differently.

### Consider Hair Sheep

Otherwise, despite the current wool market, many sheep producers might ought to consider raising hair sheep. Again, the biggest factors and considerations that should drive such a decision involve marketing and market factors. But there are also other factors, including production considerations that we will discuss more later.

In terms of market factors, as mentioned earlier, hair sheep breeds tend to be smaller framed and slower maturing. Those are probably the biggest reasons why they are discounted by commodity lamb buyers. But if you are direct marketing your lambs – especially to ethnic buyers, who often want a smaller-sized lamb anyway – they might be a very good fit. The other thing to consider is *how* you are direct marketing your lambs.

### Ethnic Markets

If you are marketing live lambs directly to ethnic buyers, there might be huge advantage

in hair sheep (depending on the breed, and the consumer's expectation about what it should look like). If you're selling the typical whole or half lamb, cut, wrapped and ready to go in the freezer, however, you may not be able to justify the same price if smaller lambs yield a smaller carcass cutout. On the other hand, if you're selling primarily by the cut or package, cutout yield shouldn't make as much difference.

### Fat Storage and Meat Flavor

Otherwise, there is a bigger difference in how hair sheep and wool sheep store fat. Most hair sheep, like most goats, typically don't develop a thick external fat layer like most wool

“...hair sheep lambs have a milder tasting meat...”

breeds do when they are fattened and finished. Consequently, hair sheep lambs have a milder tasting meat, which may

be another important marketing consideration.

The primary hair sheep breeds are Dorper, Katahdin, Barbados, St. Croix and Royal White (which is a Dorper x St. Croix composite), as well as some Cracker, or Florida Cracker, sheep, all of which seem to be particularly well-suited for forage production. One issue that many people seem to have with Barbados, however, is their appearance – they simply don't satisfy many peoples' (including both producers and consumers) expectation of what a sheep should look like. Cracker, Dorper, Katahdin, Royal White and St. Croix have a more conventional sheep appearance, but some people think they also lack the roly-poly, wooly look that they are used to and have come to expect in sheep.

### Author's Own Experience

Shifting now to discussion of production considerations, I should note that after reading Greg Judy's good SGF article about St. Croix sheep, I couldn't stop myself from going out and finding some St. Croix to try out. Finding some to buy (especially within reasonable proximity) was not easy to do. First of all, there aren't all that many around. And secondly, they seem to be in fairly high demand (and after the article



maybe even higher). But eventually we were able to acquire a small flock. And all I can say is that I have been very impressed. They may not be the biggest, or the flashiest, or the fastest growing, but in terms of just plain low maintenance, easy to handle and take care of, they are real gems, and we intend to expand that experiment.

From a production standpoint, the biggest obvious advantage to hair sheep is the fact that they naturally shed their fiber coat, so they don't require shearing. I have found that the extent to which hair sheep cleanly shed their fiber coat varies to some extent from breed to breed, and between individuals. While they all shed, some may look shaggier than others. On that score, I have also been very impressed with how cleanly the St. Croix shed. Other advantages of hair sheep include natural parasite resistance, better feet, that are more foot rot resistant, and don't require as much attention and care, and overall lower maintenance. I have found the St. Croix to be very good mothers, who raise a lamb almost as big as they are.

### Raise What You Love

Back to the issue of appearances. I have a friend who is a fairly traditional kind of sheep producer, and is starting to get up there in age (almost 80). He wanted to try some sheep that were a little more moderately sized, and easier to handle, especially at lambing time, which can be a real chore. He wanted sheep with vigorous lambs and good maternal instincts so that he wouldn't have to get down in a pen and suckle every lamb to get it started. Based on what he had heard and read, he bought a little flock of Polypay sheep, and has been pretty happy with them. When it comes to lambing, he feels like they are better than others that seem to have more dopey newborn lambs, and less maternal instinct. They seem to do fairly well on pasture, but he still has to worm them, shear them, and trim their feet.

After we got our St. Croix, and decided we really were impressed with them, I suggested to him he ought to consider them. I mean think of

all the advantages – no shearing, no worming, no feet trimming, great mothers, and really easy to lamb. After looking at them a few times, and thinking it over, he said he just couldn't get that excited about them. He just couldn't get over his hang-ups with appearance. Once they shed off in the Spring, they are more angular looking, like goats, and just didn't quite have enough of the fat, roly-poly appearance necessary to satisfy his long-standing expectation of what sheep should look like.

From my perspective, that is why it's so important to clearly define your objectives. If how you feel about the esthetic appearance of your animals is more important than anything else, including production and marketing considerations, then define what it is that want to accomplish. If the main objective is some kind of emotional response, based almost solely on appearance, that's pretty hard to measure, and may be even harder to market and deposit the resulting fruits of your labors at the bank. To each his/her own. **NV**

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Todd Macfarlane is a nomadic sheep and goat correspondent and producer. He can be reached via e-mail at [toddmacfarlane@gmail.com](mailto:toddmacfarlane@gmail.com).



**Stephanie Breazile with first place yearling ram at Washington State Fair.**

# Bruno's Canine Social Media Network



**T**he sheep camp I'm currently attached to is one of the most forward thinking places I've worked on during my short time here on the western range.

I haven't been privy to some of the more concentrated operations. I have a cousin, Bridgette, who works with people that do intense management so I decided to get on the Canine social media network to see what was happening in her neck of the woods. Her text back to me was that most of the operations in her area do intensive shed lambing.

Bridgette related that their principles are based on preventive medicine. They have a vaccination program tailored to that particular area. They vaccinate for Vibrio (technically called Campylobacter, why these scientists make things so difficult I'll never know) to prevent abortions. Some outfits in her area use a combination vaccine for Vibrio and Chlamydia (there isn't a good sheep herder term for this one). I understand these two organisms have totally different incubation periods (Vibrio is seven to 21 days where Chlamydia ranges from 50 to 90 days) so they may not protect for each organism at the same level at the critical periods of gestation. Bridgette mentioned that some do antibiotics in the feed to prevent Chlamydia.

In Bridgette's area they have sorted their pregnant ewes by ultrasound into those that are going to have singles and those that are having multiples. This helps with being more feed efficient and giving more time to get the

twins and triplets going. Her rancher was quite excited about the price he got for his open ewes he took to market.

Now that they have only pregnant ewes to deal with, the ewes are vaccinated with a multi-valiant Clostridia. This provides the lamb with protection via the colostrum. Regardless of being a single or multiple, the navel of each lamb is clipped and dipped in strong iodine prior to going into the jugs. Some outfits try to short cut this process by using a spray bottle. Bridgette text that this method does about as much good as me lifting my leg and watering a thirsty Juniper tree. She says that proper dipping will prevent lots of joint abscesses. The outfit she works with processes their lambs as soon as the navel is dry. They castrate, dock and

vaccinate with a multi-strain perfringens plus sore mouth.

They identify lambs with their mother using minimal scourable paint. This helps wool quality. The lambs and mother are removed from the cubicle (jugs) in a couple of days. The cubicle is cleaned, disinfected and bedded with adequate good, bright straw before another guest

arrives. Some outfits have good results keeping the ammonia level low by sprinkling the cubicle with Treble Super Phosphate prior to bedding with straw. Bridgette reports that using the phosphate keeps the ammonia level low, which helps prevent pneumonia.

Tuffy's Facebook entry has his picture. His ears were stripped up from an encounter with a coyote. You could tell that he had been through many experiences. He relayed an experience in his band of ewes that had an outbreak of sore mouth. The scene he told about was absolutely horrifying!

**"Granddad Dog's final  
bit of advice: A good shot  
of quality colostrum in  
the first hours of life is  
the best medicine ever  
manufactured."**

The sore mouth spread from the lamb to the teats of the ewe, which led to mastitis. The mother was in such pain that she wouldn't allow the lamb to nurse so the lamb started robbing milk from other ewes. In a week's time it had spread throughout the entire band of 800 ewes and 1,200 lambs. A Facebook response came in from a Border Collie, working on an outfit in the Land of the Gentle Breezes, reporting that this outfit now vaccinates all of the ewes for sore mouth at the same time they do the booster shot for Clostridials prior to lambing. Tuffy reports this protects the ewe from

the possibility of teat lesions preventing mastitis as well as providing passive antibodies to the lamb.

Sore mouth is a mixed bag. Granddad Dog told me once, "if it ain't broke don't fix it." If you don't have problems don't bring it in. Granddad Dog's final bit of advice: A good shot of quality colostrum in the first hours of life is the best medicine ever manufactured."

*For more information about Bruno's topics visit  
Cleon's Corner @ OptimalAg.com.  
By Cleon Kimberling, DVM*

## Sell Those Sheep Using the Association's Website

*By Kathy Bennett, Association Secretary*

**T**his 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](http://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](mailto: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. **NV**





# News and Views

**St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. Newsletter**

15863 Tiller Trail Hwy.

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

- Easy Care
- No Shearing

## **First in Internal Parasite Resistance**

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