



# News and Views

Volume 1, Issue 3

July/August/September 2012

## From the President

by Eddie Martin



**H**ello to all. I hope that your summer is ending well and that you are thinking about preparations for winter pasture and feed for your sheep. If you have looked at the St Croix chat site, you know that the SCHSBI annual meeting was well attended, and the tours and accommodations arranged by the Keiblers were excellent. Log into the discussion site and you can enjoy some pictures of the UK sheep unit tour along with member comments.

With the internet, magazines, local and state sheep groups and so many ways to receive sheep related information I have to admit that I wonder if folks are benefited by these newsletters and especially some of the educational articles we have either tried to write or include in the past several years. A gentleman who owns a flock of hair sheep called our home several months ago wanted to

discuss the St Croix breed. He ended up getting some names of breeders in a state near him to buy a replacement ram. But in the conversation he told me that when he bought his flock he was given all of the sheep information that the previous owner had saved, including some of the past newsletters. He had been reading them and planned to join the Association because he felt that we had good sheep and were trying to provide helpful and practical information. If you can put an article in future newsletters or have information to share on the chat site or possibly for a reference on the web site, please do so. People are looking for good sheep and good experience and thoughts.

The election results are final, and a full slate of directors has been elected. We do not currently have regional boundaries for the directors, and Richard Pomeroy has been following through with an assignment from the annual meeting by contacting the registrar

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# News and Views

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

## Directors:

Rob Bass (TX)  
Richard Bennett (OR)  
Billy F. Hearnberger (TX)  
Linda Barnes (OR)  
Malia Miller (CO)  
Lynne Vanderlinden (OR)  
Bob Bokma (MD)  
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Kathy Bennett (OR)  
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## St. Croix Membership

St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc.  
P.O. Box 51, 222 Main Street  
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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.

(He volunteered and I thank him for his work.) looking at the number of breeders, the number of St Croix sheep and their geographic locations, concentrations, patterns of registration and more than I know. The board of directors can use Richard's data to consider regional boundaries.

As we work through the first meeting of the new board of directors, the plans are to provide each director with an agenda and supporting documents, including the current by-laws, via email prior to the meeting. Then at an agreed-to time, we will conduct the meeting by conference call. One of the first orders of business is to elect officers from within the board of directors. I'm sure that much work will be accomplished in the next several years to convert the current by-laws, which are purposefully generic for the sole reason of legally organizing our association. Both the directors and members will need to fine tune the by-laws to make our association and the roles of directors, officers and all parts of our association into what is wanted and what is needed. Some members have already voiced desired changes and that is very good.

If you, as a member, have a suggestion or desired change for the association, please take a look at the current by-laws located on the website under the Association tab, and then contact one or more of the directors and let them know what is on your mind. I hope that the board meetings can be regular throughout the year and the minutes of each board meeting can be posted in a timely manner on the website or the discussion site so that all members can know what is being considered, studied and decided. If you do not have web access, just let us know and we will provide the information to you. **NV**

## New Slate of Directors Selected

In ballots submitted over the summer, 13 new directors were selected for the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. They are Rob Bass (TX), Richard Bennett (OR), Billy F. Hearnberger (TX), Linda Barnes (OR), Malia Miller (CO), Lynne Vanderlinden (OR), Bob Bokma (MD), Richard Pomeroy (MI), Kathy Bennett (OR), Joyce Keibler (KY), Eddie Martin (SC), Yates Colby (WA), and Bill Wire (CA). This group brings to our association a wide range of experience and a tremendous amount of skill, dedication and passion for St. Croix sheep. All of us will benefit from the leadership these individuals will provide.

The new directors will meet soon to elect officers for the association. They will also designate boundaries for the regions and assign responsibilities for the directors. **NV**

## Member Profile:

**Bill and Arlene Frank**

# St. Croix Sheep Meet Decatur Island

*by Arlene Frank*



Editor's Note: Most who raise livestock are accustomed to pickups loaded with feed, hay or straw, not to mention the multitude of equipment that goes with the territory. Imagine, for a moment, that you lived on an island, and your only transportation to your home was a ferry. Imagine further that once you land on the island, your only transportation is a golf cart. Then imagine that you wanted to raise sheep...

**R**ocky hills with clusters of tangled salal dot our newly purchased acreage on Decatur Island. Ten and a half miles off the coast of Washington State in the San Juan Islands, we decided we needed a forager to help us clear the land. Our plan was to head to the Fair in Puyallup, WA to look for goats. Our first thought was to explore the possibility of a single goat or maybe a couple goats at most. Our idea was to create a pasture of rolling green carpet that would undulate, giving the top of Decatur Island a well groomed, established look. Along those lines, better yet, meat goats would be our goal. They could fatten up on salal, possibly the coastal forest's most abundant shrub, and provide us with meat, or cheese, or we could profit from renting them to others wanting an area cleared. Dollar signs danced in our heads. We have taken several magazines and have read about the different breeds along with internet searches that kept us absorbing data late into many nights.

The hunt began. While we walked the fairgrounds, wandering the aisles of booths trying to keep track of where the other had stopped, it was decided that we would split up and go our own ways until a certain time, and then meet. He was heading towards the Home Brew talk and machinery while my mind was reeling over seeds for the garden and tasting cheese samples. When it was time to meet, Mr. Frank appeared in the distance, long stepping across the expanse of asphalt from a place far from where I was waiting. "I can't wait to show you what I've found over in the animals!" he said. I was anxious to show him all the books I had found. Off we walked hand in hand, back to the livestock building where I saw my first sight of the goats that were going to steal my heart. They didn't look like what we had talked about, and I couldn't recall any picture that I had seen that even resembled these goats. I stood there and smiled and nodded towards the couple who represented them: the Bennetts of River Bend Ranch.

## *"Are these sheep or goats?"*

On Decatur Island there are 230 Scottish Blackface sheep that roam the Northwest tip and have for over 100 years. They are horned, woolly, drag small branches in their fleece, and have an unpleasant poop ball fringe that swings like a Moroccan skirt when they run.

I could read the sign on the table that said



“River Bend Ranch” and “St Croix Sheep.” My mind was spinning.

“Are these sheep or goats?” I whispered out of the corner of my mouth. “Sheep!!” he replied in a loud deep resonant voice like husbands do. Take a deep breath and listen, I thought. Mr. Frank relayed the information to me, and it was obvious he was smitten by these docile white creatures lying in the black wired pen we were peering into.

That evening all we spoke of over dinner were these St. Croix sheep and the possibilities. The Bennetts were patient with us and encouraging with their time and knowledge—everything we lacked. The next day we returned to the fair and we agreed to purchase and receive two pregnant ewes. Yikes!

Now what are we going to do, and where do we start, were our thoughts. How will we get these sheep to Decatur Island? We have no trailer, we have no skills in leading or handling sheep, we have no established hut to house them, or fenced ground to put them on. We had to think quick as we

had purchased them, and they were going to arrive shortly. When we mentioned to the other Islanders that we had purchased sheep, they went slack jawed and their eyes started moving to the northwest and southwest simultaneously in that, “ Oh gee, well... we’ll support you...

maybe” look that really said, “You are both nuts and we’ve known it all along!”

In our imaginations we could almost hear the words to the 60’s sitcom Green Acres. Yep! Livestock comin’ our way, boy howdy. Get along little doggy, and yippee ki yay...the Franks were on a new adventure.

We had an old canvas 12 X 15 foot hoop building that was left on the property by the previous owner. We soon found out the trees on either side of it had grown too big and had

overtaken the metal tubing that made up its base. After some carving and the use of a winch, we were able to pull it free and into an open field with the dreaded salal.

We now had our sheep shelter in place. Next came several trips to Valley Farm Center in Mt. Vernon, WA to visit with Stan and Audrey, the owners. They taught us about simple fencing. We decided to try the solar Gallagher Fence for starters. Then came things unfamiliar: there was straw, and hay, a farm gate, a mineral block, water tank, buckets etc. all coming one purchase at a time on a foot ferry. Finally the boat captain asked us to cover the straw and hay as he didn’t like sweeping it up after our departure, and he wasn’t thrilled with straw bits stuck to his engine. Next purchase a rolling canvas bag to cover the bales. It also made getting the bales to the boat much easier as we rolled it down a long dock and heaved it across the gap between dock and boat.

Kathleen and Richard had a delivery to make in Northwest WA, so it was decided

that we would let the professionals bring us the ewes in their livestock trailer. All went well and they were unloaded from the trailer into plywood crates in the Marina parking lot in Anacortes. The foot ferry known as the “Paraclete” was our transportation that day to Decatur Island,

and there was enough room on the back end to set the sheep in crates. Four people surrounded each crate to carry them down a narrow ramp to the dock and then lifted each onto the back of the boat. When we arrived on the island the process went in reverse. Unload to the dock and carry them up the ramp to a small cheap utility trailer to be pulled down a mile long rocky, puddle-filled road in the pouring, cold NW rain. Since we aren’t allowed to have real vehicles where we live, we borrowed a pickup



truck to pull the sheep trailer, and Kathleen and I followed in golf carts to the property. Thankfully the release of the ewes went well.

Our girls gave birth to a set of twins and a single. We now have the two mothers, two ewe lambs and a ram lamb. The pasture area has been expanded with a permanent wire fence, and we continue our trips to the mainland only to return with supplies enough to load on the back of a golf cart.


No more and no less.

Life has never been so satisfying for us. The ewes and ram greet us each day wanting rubs on the tops of their tails and around their ears. We have girly conversations about how beautiful they look each day, and they flirt back



adoringly to Mr. Frank with demur little baas. As for clearing the land, the salal is still pretty prevalent, but the grasses have been kept at bay and the sheep have made quite a few paths through the growth. With supplemental plantings which have finally come around and hand clearing, a true pasture is beginning to emerge. We do have enough rocks stacked in piles to start half walls

as boundary lines like you see in the hills of Scotland. If only Mr. Frank would purchase the mortar... but I'm often reminded of the load weight allowed on the back of a golf cart.

Yes, it is a good day when Mr. Frank returns from the mainland and there is room enough between us on the seat of the golf cart to secure a nice bottle of wine to enjoy after we unload, check our girls, and call it a day. 

## Belt Buckle Winner



Editor's Note: Last spring the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. sponsored a belt buckle for a junior class of hair sheep at the Clackamas County Fair. A young St. Croix breeder, Ely Crawford,

won the buckle. Here is the thank you note he sent to the association:

*Dear St. Croix Hair Sheep Association,*

*Thank you so much for the donation of the buckle. For six years now I've worked very hard to show my St. Croix at the fair to the best of my abilities. This buckle means so much to me, and I'm overwhelmed with joy to receive it! Thank you so much!*

*Sincerely,  
Ely Crawford*







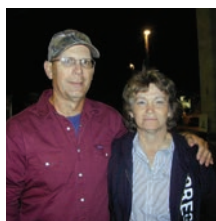
## Oregon State Fair

Salem, OR was the site of the Oregon State Fair and the St. Croix show in late August. Six breeders showed their sheep in 14 classes.

- Karl and Jan Hyde showed the champion ram
- Pink Ladies Ranch (Sue Swan) exhibited the champion ewe
- Premier Exhibitor award went to Ed and Linda Barnes of Dorsey/Lee Morgan Farm.
- New St. Croix breeders, Pam Bradley and Janet Rick, acted as official photographers for the event.
- A number of St. Croix were sold during the fair, including several to Lance and Nancy Andersen from Texarkana, AR. They flew in Wednesday before the show and stayed until Saturday, meeting breeders and making purchases to start their flock.



The Oregon State Fair is the largest venue in the nation for showing St. Croix sheep. Linda Barnes said she is looking forward to even more exhibitors next year, as the St. Croix are seen by a large number of visitors and potential buyers. Consider making the trip to Salem next fall to join other breeders in showing your beautiful animals. [NU](#)



# Overview of Basic Sheep Diseases

by Eddie Martin

Just like many of you, we receive phone calls and emails about St Croix sheep. A fairly large part of the callers are either considering starting new flocks or else they have only read about St Croix sheep on the internet. Just this week a caller told me that she wanted to consider starting a flock of St Croix sheep because they were “disease resistant.” I tried to explain that there is quite a bit of difference in true disease resistance versus an animal that has a well developed immune system, the genetic ability to fight off or show no effects of some bacteria and virus strains. With any new person asking about the breed, I try to give them a little St Croix educational effort.

Years ago when we started with St Croix sheep, we were told that St Croix sheep were immune to Scrapie and foot rot. We have since learned that the breed is not immune to either the disease or the condition, but St Croix are not as susceptible as some other breeds.

Keep in the back of your minds that an animal can contract a disease, exhibit resistance to a disease, or appear healthy even though it has contracted a disease yet never show the symptoms. The animal that contracts the disease but never exhibits the symptoms is often called a “carrier” if it sheds the disease so that other animals become infected.

With some diseases, infected sheep, but especially carriers, will be a big problem to you that can only be identified with proper testing.

Let me run through a few diseases to example the range of differences, treatments and results.

## Manageable Diseases

All of us have heard of or used “CD-T” vaccine. It is cheap to buy, easy to administer and protects our sheep from two forms of overeating disease and tetanus. Sheep cannot develop natural or genetic resistance to any of these diseases. If they contract these diseases, they are dead sheep.

On the other hand, Leptospirosis is a disease that can affect the reproduction function of ewes and cows yet can be easily “cleared” with an over the counter antibiotic or prevented with a relatively inexpensive vaccine. But the occurrence of “Lepto” is not reported to be as common in sheep as it is in cattle.

## Insidious Diseases

There are some diseases in all sheep breeds that can only be described as terrible or insidious for the sheep and the shepherd. These diseases can affect sheep if they have been exposed to the disease and have contracted it. Some of the diseases which are major players in the sheep world and get coverage in the majority of the health articles in sheep and goat magazines are Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL), Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP), Q Fever, Scrapie and Johne’s Disease. There are plenty of places to read about them.

I mentioned Scrapie earlier, and most of us know that it is a fatal disease. A genetic test can identify sheep which are resistant to the strain of Scrapie that we have in the United States. It is based on particular genes in the sheep, and the nomenclature of QQ, QR and RR is used to identify genetic levels of resistance. Many of our members’ flocks are in the USDA-APHIS Scrapie Eradication Program.

- **OPP** is a sheep disease that does not show up immediately in your flock and then becomes apparent when a number of symptoms, including breathing issues, weight loss, below normal milk production or mastitis become a problem for an increasing number of ewes.

- **Q Fever** and **CL** are zoonotic diseases, which means they can be transmitted to humans from animals. Q Fever is not just a sheep disease but is found in a number of animal species. There is usually a particular warning in informational articles concerning Q Fever in relation to women who are or might become pregnant. A few years ago we had a friend who was deathly sick, and the doctors suspected that he contracted Q Fever from a hog on his farm. Thankfully it turned out to be something which was easily treatable, but the extreme level of his sickness made a believer out of me on Q Fever. CL is a disease that can affect many species and causes boil type abscesses that are full of infection.

- The last disease listed is **Johne’s Disease**. It is not just a sheep disease but also affects cattle, deer, goats and other ruminants. Symptoms usually show up after you have owned the animals for a period of time. The disease is fatal to infected animals, and by then your pastures are contaminated. **NV**



# Views from You

Association members have unique opportunities to view various aspects of raising and marketing St. Croix. From time to time, we will feature some of those observations and perspectives.

This issue we have a member who has written a testimonial about the misfortune with Johne's Disease in her flock, and she asked that we let other members know of her family's heartaches caused by it. Please read the article and realize that any of these diseases can impact our breed and destroy your sheep, your investment, your reputation and your future.

## Johne's Disease—One Breeder's Experience

Our family had been raising St. Croix sheep for several years when we noticed something strange. Several of our ewes at prime breeding age (for us that is 3-4 years) had become thin and had intermittent diarrhea. We thought it was rich pasture causing the diarrhea at first because the ewes didn't initially lose weight, then the thought of coccidiosis or possibly even parasite infestation crossed our minds. It seemed odd that they continued to eat well, if not more than the rest of our ewes. They would have bouts of the runs, recover and go on to produce healthy lambs. The ewes were wonderful mothers with healthy milk production, yet they continued to lose weight and eventually didn't recover from lambing. We stopped breeding several, thinking somehow they had coccidiosis or even worse, internal or external parasites that we were somehow missing. The strange thing was, not all of the ewes had consistent symptoms and our younger one and two-year old ewes had no problems at all. The most concerning activity we noticed is that the older ewes continued to eat very, very well. They consumed much more than the ewes with healthy weights, yet like all of our St. Croix, tested negative for any significant parasite infestation. We even considered some kind of disease from the large herd of elk that visits our property every spring. We called the Fish and Wildlife Department here with no

forthcoming explanation.

Hmmm. We couldn't figure it out. Since we knew that our 3-4 year old ewes can obviously produce healthy lambs for many years to come, we were stumped as to why they began to have such significant problems at that age, but not as younger sheep. Our first hunch was coccidiosis. We raise day old chicks to young pullets and then sell them to people wanting a few backyard laying hens, generally in the suburban areas of our state, where only female chickens are allowed within city limits. We keep our poultry pens clean and separate from the rest of our farm. As popular as it is nowadays, we do not allow our pullets to free range our property. They have their own safe, large outdoor coops and housing. As most of us know, birds, including chickens, can carry many diseases, several of which are transmittable to humans

and other animals, to say the least. Coccidiosis can be rampant among chickens and infect them even if a coop has been devoid of poultry that carried the disease for many years.

We tried coccidiostats for the sheep and poultry. That had no effect at all on either. We then began vaccinating our poultry for coccidiosis and several

other diseases just to be on the safe side, despite their separation from the other livestock. We used coccidiostats in the sheep's water and tried it in the feed at vet



*Daisy*



recommended dosages. It seemed to work for awhile for the sheep, or so we thought. As any good sheep breeder does of course, lambs and sheep had already been subject to a regular vaccination program.

It didn't help. The adult ewes, who at that point were very precious to our family, kept deteriorating, yet eating more. I then received a call from good friends from whom we bought our first small flock of St. Croix in 2007. We were acquaintances then, actually just strangers with us answering an ad and a subsequent email about hair sheep ..we have all learned so much since that time.

We shared ideas along the way about keeping sheep and other livestock, developing a friendship. We were impressed at how well they cared for their animals, farm and family. So..we kept in touch, since they have been such a positive influence on us, through the remarkable sheep they provided our small farm.

Then in late 2011, we received a call from them, asking if we would like to take some of their ewes since they had decided to stop raising sheep. When I asked why, I was told they had had problems of the same sort we had with deterioration of ewes and a few rams dying yet they were all eating well. We had loaned a registered ram to them for fall breedings two years in a row and despite large, healthy lambs, the ewes kept getting thinner and more emaciated. I recommended a coccidiostat since they had already tried several wormers that had no effect. Like us, it didn't help. We then began discussing our farms' history and it turned out we had both purchased goats (us one and them two) from the same farm in the area. Neither of us knew of the other's purchase, and both were at nearly the same time in 2008. I contacted the owner of that farm who stated she purchased the parent stock from an auction and all had since died, blaming it on a severe parasite infection, genetic anomalies, inbreeding or other such problems, never testing the animals or having a

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All of our other sheep have  
since been euthanized.

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necropsy done. We had contacted our vet about the goat. I was told to call yet another vet, more knowledgeable about goats and sheep. I called and they did not have time, so we buried the goat having no other choice, or so we thought.

We purchased six ewes from our friends. All pregnant and 3-4 year old ewes. All had given birth at least once before, so you know what that means. They were all likely carrying twins. And all of the potential lambs were sired by our beautiful registered ram we had loaned them. We noticed they were thin but not emaciated. We thought good pasture, some mineral supplements, a bit of grain and some TLC would help. Within a few weeks, two of them could not stand. They continued to eat.

The others became weak despite valiant efforts to graze in our back pasture. Sheep will do anything to stay with the flock. They would have completely

normal stools most of the time with intermittent bouts of horrible diarrhea. We finally had to put down two of them. Euthanasia of the other four followed within the next few weeks. As the mothers died, one could see the lambs struggling in their bellies. It was horrific.

Testing at our friend's farm showed Johne's disease. Ours did too.

We were fortunate in one way. Our farm is divided into four pastures. We kept our sheep in small flocks and new ewes are never exposed to the others until we can determine if they are healthy enough to breed.. This usually means several months at least since we choose to breed our sheep only once per year. However, there was one problem..our ram we had loaned out before any of us knew what was happening. He had exposed all of our other sheep, with the exception of one young ram, his harem of two ewes and a very large old retired ram, with whom an older pet ewe lives. They have completely separate pastures. Our horrible mistake. All of our other sheep have since been euthanized.

What we learned continued on next page.

## Things we have learned:

- Johne's disease is caused by *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, a hardy bacterium that embeds itself in the wall of the lower part of the small intestine known as the ileum. As an immune response, infected tissues attempt to regenerate healthy tissue which leads to visible thickening of the intestines. This prevents nutrient absorption, resulting in weight loss. Late in the infection, antibody production by the animal can be found in serum of animals and is an indicator that clinical signs of disease and death from the infection will soon follow.

**Of note:** *Younger animals often test negative for the disease yet are shedding the virus into your pastures.*

- Research shows that, today, one out of 10 animals moving through livestock auction facilities has Johne's disease.

- Lost productivity due to Johne's disease is estimated to cost the U.S. dairy industry \$200 million to \$250 million annually.

- National Animal Health Monitoring Systems (NAHMS) study, Dairy 2007, shows that 68.1 percent of U.S. dairy operations are infected with *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP), the bacteria known to cause Johne's disease. Dairy 2007 also suggests that at least one out of every four U.S. dairy operations may have a relatively high percentage of Johne's-infected cows in their herds.

- The most common source is feces, or manure.

- While protected in fresh manure, the MAP organism can remain alive in the environment for over a year, depending on conditions. Ingestion of food tainted by manure containing the microbe is the most common way animals become infected.

- It has been found in some environments in the US alive and well in pasture up to 17 months after **all** animals have been removed. MAP typically enters a herd via an infected, but healthy-looking, animal in Stage I. As the disease progresses in that animal, the frequency

and number of bacteria being excreted into the environment increase. Every day, billions of Johne's microbes may be excreted from an animal in Stage III or IV of the disease. Despite the fact that it is an intestinal disease, it **CAN** be passed through mother's milk. If you plan to save lambs, hope you have colostrum on hand from proven uninfected sheep **and** they **never** nurse from the dam. Therefore, you had better plan on camping out at night with such ewes if they are about to give birth.

- Johne's disease is not currently known to be transmissible to humans. However, there is a human disease called Crohn's disease that resembles Johne's disease. One theory about the cause of Crohn's disease is that, in genetically susceptible people, some cases of Crohn's disease may be incited by MAP.

Evidence for this theory is not conclusive, and uncertainty about potential risk to public health from this organism persists. Crohn's disease is not known to occur more often in people exposed to the manure of MAP-infected animals. MAP has been isolated from a few humans with Crohn's disease, as have numerous other bacteria and viruses. It has been found in populations in developing countries where ruminants share the same quarters as humans for significant periods of time but due to limited testing in those areas, findings are said to be inconclusive.

- In short, don't buy into Johne's. As breeders, we have found that testing takes some time (up to two months) but is well worth the cost per head in our area (about \$10). It took less than 5 weeks to get results back, probably due to the advanced stage of disease of the ewes initially tested. Remember, younger sheep can test negative, so be sure to **only** buy from uninfected, tested flocks.

- If you are considering buying a property that has pastured ruminants in the past, have the pastures tested! This is something many who buy land with the intention of raising sheep do not think about! Call your vet and county agriculture extension agent prior to purchase for information. Yes, the soil can be tested.



- If you find you have Johne's in your flock and cull animals, you **cannot** add new animals to the same pasture for at least 18 months, or your new flock will in turn be infected. Don't think your new animals are immune to the longevity and hardiness of the virus. You will be spreading it to others via sheep from your new, outwardly healthy flock.

- Quarantine all new animals and have them tested prior to introduction to your other animals. This seems obvious, but without the knowledge of the disease, this happens often, as in our case. **Do not buy** from untested farms, but don't think that is totally failsafe either. However, it is our best option at this point. Have yours tested and don't think you are safe

because the disease is "not in this area." Divide your pastures and your sheep. That way, you won't lose your entire flock, and don't be naïve enough to think that can't happen.

**Remember:** *healthy sheep can test negative yet spread the infection throughout your entire flock.* One infected sheep that tests negative can infect the entire operation.

Think of Johne's as the equivalent of human HIV infection escalating to AIDS, causing death via Crohn's disease. Please do what you can to prevent it. It is incurable in this country. Australia, New Zealand and Europe have supposedly effective vaccines. We need to find a way to get those immunizations available in this country. Our breed depends on it. **NU**

## Views from You—Life Is Good!

*This was an email from Billy Hearnberger to Sandra Walker and Kathy Bennett.*

Last July I purchased a triplet from you (JSW44). She was born 3/25/11. I brought her home and turned her out with the flock. On 9/26/11 I turned Adonis into the flock, and since this lamb was so young I did not want her bred to him so early. She was small and I doubted she would but just to be safe I moved her over into the only other place I had for her which was into the pasture with RBR202 (young ram).

On 10/3/11 she was attacked by a coyote, not once but twice, within a three day period. The second attack was horrible. She was very severely wounded and suffered deep tearing wounds to her backside, and much of one side was completely torn away. I did what I could for her in the way of using disinfectant twice daily but had no hope of her surviving. She could not walk and would not eat. After several days and what I thought would be her last, I tube fed her. I came back later that evening expecting to find her dead, but to my surprise she was not. In fact she seemed a little better. I offered her some feed and for the first time since the attack she ate some although it was only about a teaspoon. I continued to nurse her along, and at some

point I began to think she might just survive.

Well she did in fact survive, and I turned her back out to the main flock. Although she is still very thin and not as big as the others and looks bad with no tail, she is doing quite well. In fact, when I went out this morning I noticed my big dog was not with the flock, but instead I saw him come out of the barn. Since yesterday was the first day to start looking for babies from Adonis, I went out to the barn but found nothing. I was very puzzled as to why my dog had been in there since he *always* stays with the sheep unless he is with a baby. Well I went up to the pen to feed a small amount of feed to my flock, and when I came out of the feed building I saw the flock waiting for me as usual at the gate, but coming up from the back was a new mama and her new baby. I poured the feed out into the troughs and opened the gate to let them in, making sure to get the number of the last one in.

Well guess what...It was number 44. She was born a triplet 3/25/11, exposed to RBR202 on 9/26/11, bred about 9/27/11, attacked twice around 10/3/11 and should have died, and delivered a healthy ewe lamb on 2/19/12. All is well...Life is good...for some. **NU**

# News and Views

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

15863 Tiller Trail Hwy.  
Days Creek, OR 97429



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

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