

THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE  
NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXV, Issue 1  
Website: [www.risheep.org](http://www.risheep.org)

March 2014  
Telephone: (401) 578-2012

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!**

**April 5, 2014**

**Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative  
Annual Meeting**

South Foster Fire Station  
Rt 94/Mt. Hygeia Road, Foster, RI

Doors open at 5:00 to set up  
Pot luck Dinner starts at 6:00  
Annual Meeting to follow

**Program for the evening:**

**"Lamb Marketing Options In RI- The Basics One Needs To Know"**  
guest speakers: Don and Deb Hopkins, of Scituate, RI

**Bring a large dish to share; hot and cold drinks and dessert will be provided.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Reminder for Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative Board of Directors  
and Rhody Warm Blanket Committee:**

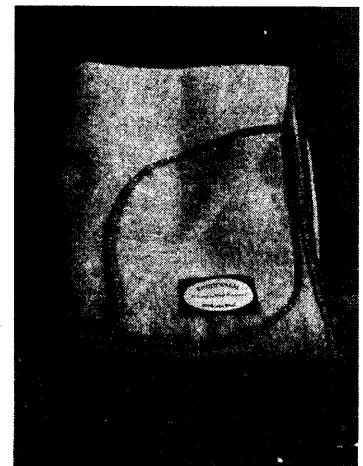
Next Board of Directors meeting will be held in conjunction with the Rhody Warm Blanket Meeting - on May 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Debbie Hopkins' house @ 1125 Danielson Pike, Scituate, RI .

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**The 2014 Edition of Rhody Warm Blanket  
called "Hanton City" still available for purchase.**

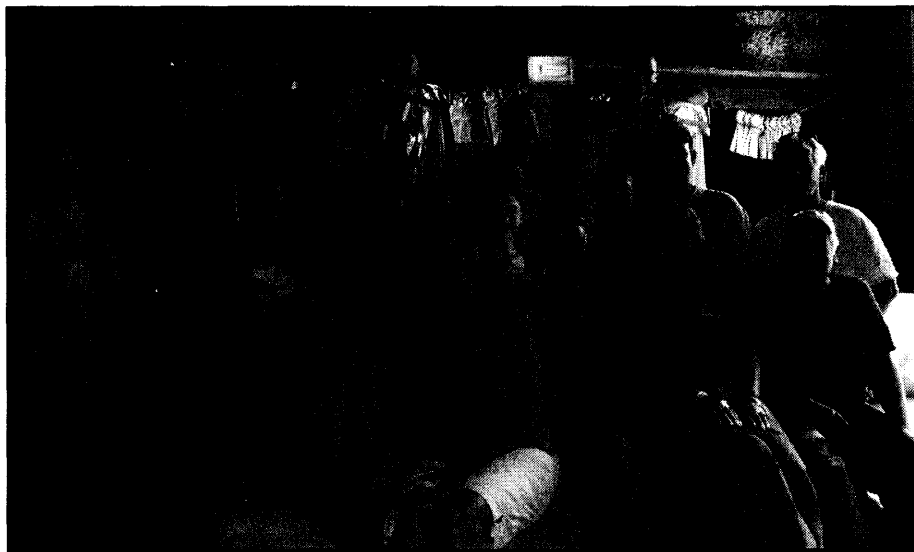
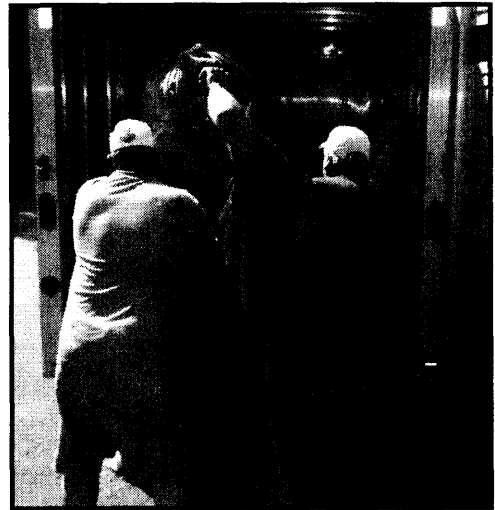
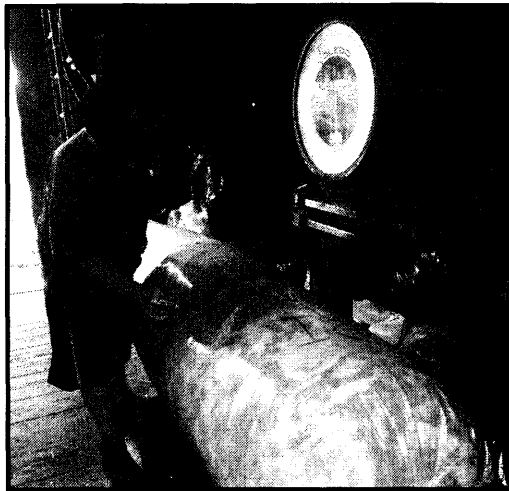
**Need a blanket - for a wedding gift, shower gift,  
graduation gift or just to keep warm - we still have plenty!**

**Contact Polly or Christopher Hopkins @ 949-4619,  
or Robin Meek @ 949- 2167 for details.**



**WOOL COLLECTION DAY.....**

The collection day of Rhode Island Wool for the Rhody Warm Blanket Project had been set:  
WOOL COLLECTION DAY: Sunday June 8, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Polly & Kevin Hopkins' Farm, Maybe Tomorrow Farm  
494 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI 02814.



**\*\*\* Remember to call your shearer now to book a date – now is NOT too early!! \*\*\***

## ***Members Wanted !!!!***

The Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative will have a vendor spot at the annual Wool and Fiber Festival at the Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for volunteers to man the booth for a couple hours (then you can go shopping). We promote local lamb (meat) as well as local wool and the Rhody Warm Blankets. You are welcome to demonstrate while manning the booth – knit, crochet, spinning, needle felt, whatever – as long as it includes wool and/or natural fiber. Tony Patti is organizing the booth, contact him for more information at: [Ajpatti31@verizon.net](mailto:Ajpatti31@verizon.net) or 401-439-5551 .

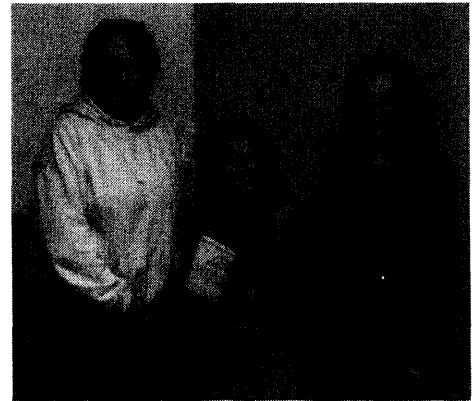


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## **HANTON CITY EDITION 2013 RHODY WARM BLANKETS**

Just imagine a time when there were no cars or highways and people travelled around on horses or by foot. The lost city of Hanton sits in what we know today as the Town of Smithfield, Rhode Island.

The history of Hanton City was first investigated in 1889 when a reporter from the Providence Journal ventured into the area and came across a small house located on the outskirts of a village that was called Hanton City. (Providence Journal Article, titled "A Buried City" October 6, 1889). The reporter met with Thomas Hanton and his sister, who were known to be the "last of the Hantons." Mr. Hanton was believed to be 80 years old at the time of this interview. He told the reporter that the residents of Hanton City were poor people, who were paid with food not money for their goods and services. It was reported that Hanton City was originally settled by three families with the surnames of Paine, Henended and Shepey (also known as: Paine, Hanton and Shippee).



**Roberta Mulholland, RI Sheep Co-op Director,  
Melanie Nelson, Essay Contest Winner, and Jenny  
Paquet, RI Sheep Co-op Secretary**

The remains of Hanton City showed evidence of the land being farmed at one point. They had irrigation systems in place and old corn cribs. Besides being boot makers (making boots from leather) and tanners (making leather from animal hides), the men also quarried big blocks of granite used in the making of several building foundations located in Providence, Rhode Island. The granite was cut by hand using the pin and feather method. When Mr. Hanton was asked what happened to the people of Hanton City, he replied, "They all got poor and sold out to anybody and died off." This statement indicates that the residents were not wiped out by a plague, natural disaster, nor had their land taken away, as is sometimes reported in more modern times. It appears that Hanton City was abandoned by most of its residents around 1830. Sad to think that what was once a small flourishing settlement is just remnants of foundations, stonewalls, a dam and a few gravestones with the names of Alfred, Eliza and Emor Smith. The land of Hanton City is now owned by the Dow Chemical Company.

***Congratulations to Melanie Rose Nelson, 11, of West Warwick, who wrote the winning essay for which the 2013 edition of the Rhody Warm Blankets is named. The narrative above is based on her research and her essay on Hanton City.***

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## MASSACHUSETTS WOOL POOL .....

The wool pools used to be an annual event around New England, and were run by the New England Sheep and Wool Growers, but with less and less call for wool, the pools became a thing of the past. Four years ago, Aaron Loux decided that he was getting enough inquiries to start a wool pool for everyone to take advantage of again. MidStates purchases will and payment comes directly from them. This is a graded pool, meaning prices will vary with quality of your fleece(s).

This year's Massachusetts Annual Wool Pool will take place June 21, 2014 at the Cummington Fairgrounds in Cummington, Massachusetts. If you have any other questions, contact Aaron via phone (413) 230-8607 or email [aaronshearing@gmail.com](mailto:aaronshearing@gmail.com). You should contact Aaron ahead of time, if you plan to participate in the wool pool.

**\*\*We really hope you participate in the Rhody Warm Blanket Project but if you miss the Collection Day and want to get rid of your fleeces this year – you might consider Aaron's wool pool.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Local Shearers:

CALL EARLY TO ARRANGE A DATE FOR SPRING SHEARING;

**Brittany Sederback** (small flocks) (also farm sits): tel: 401-678-6915,  
email: [agiwanuku@gmail.com](mailto:agiwanuku@gmail.com)

**Aaron Loux** (large and small flocks): tel: 413-230-8607,  
email: [aaronshearing@gmail.com](mailto:aaronshearing@gmail.com).

**Colin Siegmund** (small flocks): tel: 860-315-7684,  
email: [woolyone@charter.net](mailto:woolyone@charter.net)



### Things to Remember:

Be there to greet your shearer and assist him/her when needed – do not expect the shearer to shear your sheep when you are not there!

Keep your sheep dry - if it rains the day or two before your appointment.

Have your sheep locked in the barn, or penned up in a small confined area, and ready for shearing.

Have a clean, dry, junk-free area for your shearer to work in.

Help your shearer get the animal from the pen to the shearing matt.

Questions about skirting your fleece?

Ask your shearer about skirting techniques, how to prepare a better fleece, and what to do to participate in the Rhody Warm Blanket Project. Most shearers can give you pointers to keeping the fleeces clean year round – on and off the sheep – before and after shearing.



**NEW ENGLAND SHEEP & WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION announces...**

**2014 New England Sale To Be Private Treaty Only;**  
**Used Equipment Auction Continues**

This year the **New England Sale** will be a **private treaty sale only**. All exchanges will be considered private treaty between the consignor and the buyer, there will be no sale guarantee offered by the NES&WGA. A veterinarian will be on site to assist any consignor if needed, as well as to write health papers for sheep that are sold. Rams, ewes and wethers of any age or breed, pure-bred or cross-bred, can be sold, as well as boer goats. Registrations are not necessary, however if the consignor is hoping to sell to a youth that will be exhibiting the animal in the Northeast Youth Sheep Show the following day, then the animal will have to have a registration paper. The transfer portion of the registration should be filled out to the buyer and signed by the consignor. We ask that all animals be properly presented and are shorn or fitted within 7 days of the sale. All animals must be positively identified with an eartag approved by the USDA (scrapie tags) and accompanied by an approved interstate health certificate. All animals must be healthy, sound and have a good condition score. There is a committee in place that will take a look at the animals and check health papers on the evening of Friday, July 18, 2014.

Sheep must be in pens by 7:00pm Friday, July 18, 2014. All sales must be complete by 6:00pm on Saturday, July 19, 2014. The entry fee is \$10/head. This fee is in place to put towards the rental cost as well as the cost to have a vet available. Sale sheep will be penned centrally in Mallary Arena, the same place New England Sale sheep have been penned for many years. As always, the consignor must be a member of the NES&WGA, dues are \$10/year. There is no pre-entry form, however we do ask that if you are consigning to let sale management know before Monday July, 14, 2014 so that we may set up the sale area. A verbal commitment or email will do!

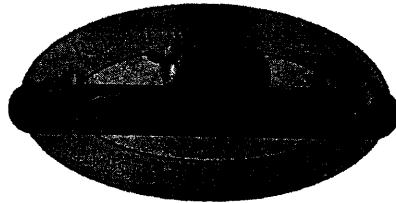
This is a new venture that we are trying out to offer a sale venue for our members to take advantage of. We will have staff on hand during the day to monitor the success of your sales and to gather buyer information so that we may promote this event in the future. We want it to be as beneficial to our members as possible, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us! Jessica Minter can be reached via email at [jhminiter@gmail.com](mailto:jhminiter@gmail.com) or via phone at (401) 829-0095.

**We will once again** be hosting the infamous New England Used **Equipment Auction**. It will take place starting at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 19, 2014 with Bill MacCauley auctioneering. We will be auctioning any sheep related equipment or supplies, no crafts please! There is no entry fee for equipment, however consignors must be a NES&WGA member and there is a commission of 10% on the sale price withheld from settlement checks.

Equipment will be accepted all day Thursday, July 17, 2014 and until 6:00pm on Friday, July 18, 2014. We cannot accept any equipment after this time. The sale committee reserves the right to sift any item and to group small items from a single consignor. The equipment sale order will be available to buyers Friday evening. We ask that all buyers settle their purchases on Saturday, July 19, 2014.

**Jessica Minter and Christopher Hopkins have created a new website for the New England Sheep & Wool Growers Association – we suggest you keep checking it for upcoming sheep related events around New England, if there are sheep related activities that you think might be of interest to New England sheep breeders, forward to Jess ([jhminiter@gmail.com](mailto:jhminiter@gmail.com)) or Chris ([cch06@aol.com](mailto:cch06@aol.com)).**

Same website name – new website: [www.nesheep.org](http://www.nesheep.org) check it out today !! Also ‘like’ the *New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association* Face book page to get up to day notices.



**RI RAISED LIVESTOCK announces 2014 Annual Meeting ....**

*Come visit with old friends, meet new members, network and discuss plans for 2014 and beyond.*

**Monday, April 7, 2014**

Coventry-West Greenwich Elks Lodge  
42 Nooseneck Road (Rt. 3)  
West Greenwich, RI

***Please note that we have a change in format this year, and will be holding the Business Meeting at the beginning of the evening, with the meal and Trade Show to follow.***

- Doors open at 5:30 for Trade Show
- Business Meeting 6 - 6:45 p.m.
- Light meal to follow ~*sponsored by the John T. Howard Agency/Farm Family Insurance and Farm Credit East*
- Trade Show continues to 8:00 p.m.

RIRLA Membership renews on April 1, 2014. You can join on line at: <http://www.rirla.org/new-renew.htm> .

Questions? Contact:

Heidi Quinn, Association Coordinator  
*Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association*  
P.O. Box 640  
North Scituate, RI 02857  
(401)-575-3348  
[www.rirla.org](http://www.rirla.org)

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**Sheep Shearing School held at the University of Connecticut**

The Connecticut Sheep Breeders Association will be hosting their annual Sheep Shearing School, in honor of Randy Knight, on **Saturday, April 12th** from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm in the UConn Sheep Barn. All interested in attending can **R.S.V.P** to **Melissa Higgins** by **Wednesday, April 9th** at [ctsheepshearer@gmail.com](mailto:ctsheepshearer@gmail.com)



## **NRCS outreach calendar.....**

The following information lists planned outreach events in Rhode Island where the Natural Resources Conservation Service plans to provide information on technical and financial assistance available. In addition, information is also provided on recruitment efforts.

**URI Spring Career and Job Fair: Wednesday, April 2, 2014** from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, URI Ryan Center Kingston, RI. The event provides the opportunity to speak with NRCS representatives about employment opportunities with the agency and the Federal government. The event will also include representatives from other governmental and private organizations.

**RESCHEDULED EVENT: High Tunnel Tour - NRCS and Northern RI Conservation District Workshop: Thursday, April 3, 2014**, 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Red Planet Vegetables, 544 Greenville Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919. Join us to learn from Matt Tracy and Catherine Mardosa on how to grow your business with high tunnels which can extend the growing season and control crop quality. In addition, learn about funding available through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other programs for agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and easements. Stop by from 4:30 and 6:30 for a discussion and tour of the facility and to speak to a representative about your needs and concerns. Call the Northern Conservation District at (401) 934-0840 to register for this free workshop. (This event was originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2014 but was postponed due to inclement weather.)

**Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association (RIRLA) Annual Meeting : Monday, April 7, 2014** from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM, West Greenwich Elks Lodge 42 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI 02817.- NRCS will have an exhibit table at the RIRLA annual meeting which includes the business meeting and trade show. More information may be obtained at the RIRLA Web site:<http://rirla.org/meetings-events.htm>

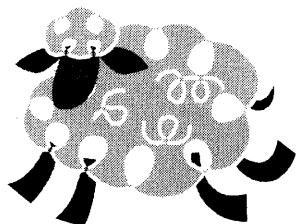
**Roger Williams Park Zoo Party for the Planet Earth Day Celebration: Friday April 25, 2014** from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Roger Williams Park Zoo, 1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907. NRCS will have an exhibit table at the Environmental Fair with conservation related materials and temporary tattoos with a conservation theme for children. Additional information on the event is available at: <http://rwpzoo.org/58/plan-your-visit/calendar-events>

**High Tunnel Tour-NRCS and Eastern RI Conservation District Workshop: Saturday, April 26, 2014** at 10:00 AM, Stone Crophe Farm, 333 East Road, Tiverton, RI 02878. Join us for an open house to learn how high tunnels can extend your growing season and control crop quality. Also learn about funding available through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other programs for agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and easements. Call the Eastern Conservation District at (401) 816-5667 to register for this free workshop.

**Rhode Island Agriculture Day at RI State House: Thursday, May 1, 2014** from 11:30 AM -5:00 PM, RI State House, Smith Street, Providence, RI. To recognize the state's \$1.7 billion agriculture and green industries, the Department of Environmental Management will host the annual event showcasing Rhode Island's agriculture industry with over 50 exhibitors. There will be a large variety of locally grown foods available for sampling and speaking program at 2:00 PM in the Governor's State Room.

**High Tunnel Tour- NRCS and Southern RI Conservation District Workshop: Wednesday, May 7, 2014** from 4:30 – 6:30 PM, 305 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown, RI. Join us for an open house to learn how high tunnels can extend your growing season and control crop quality. The high tunnel tour starts at 5:00 PM. Also learn about funding available through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other programs for agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and easements. Call the Southern Conservation District at (401) 500-0422 to register for this free workshop. (Rain Date: May 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.)

**Native Pollinator Habitat Tour - NRCS and Northern RI Conservation District Workshop: Tuesday, June 10, 2014** from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, 836 Old Smithfield Road, North Smithfield, RI. Join us for an open house to learn how high tunnels can extend your growing season and control crop quality. The high tunnel tour starts at 5:00 PM. Also learn about funding available through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other programs for agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and easements. Call the Northern Conservation District at (401) 934-0840 to register for this free workshop. (Rain Date: June 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.)



# **RHODE ISLAND SHEEP** **COOPERATIVE**

## **2014 Membership Form**

Enclosed is my \$10.00 check made payable to *RI Sheep Co-op* for my 2014 dues.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FARM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, please include me in the Membership List on the RI Sheep Cooperative's website.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, please include my farm's information in the Rhode Island Sheep Co-op's directory.

### **My information for the Directory:**

BREED(S) OF SHEEP WE RAISE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WE HAVE ARTICLES FOR SALE/ SERVICES OFFERED: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Treasurer**  
**RI Sheep Cooperative**  
**P.O. Box 88**  
**Harmony, RI 02829**

**\*\* MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2014 TO BE INCLUDED IN 2014 DIRECTORY \*\***