



THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXI, Issue 2

May 2010

Website: www.risheep.org

Telephone: (401) 578-2012

BRING YOUR QUALITY FLEECES to the 5TH ANNUAL WOOL COLLECTION DAY

Date: Saturday, June 5, 2010
Time: 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Location: Urban Edge Farm
35 Pippin Orchard Road, Cranston, RI

- *Fleeces must be 2 to 6 inches long, clean, dry, and shorn within the last year, preferably stored in plastic or paper bags – if a large fleece = one to a bag
- *Producers will be asked to stay with their fleeces during inspection; we invite all members to assist throughout the day.
- *Sorry, no hair sheep materials will be accepted;
- *The farmer will receive \$0.65 per pound for their skirted fleece;
- *Treasurer will be in attendance to collect dues, as membership in the RI Sheep Cooperative is required; annual dues is \$10.00;
- *Did you know that 6 lbs. of wool can make a blanket?
- *If you cannot make this date, *do not throw your wool away!* Contact us for tips on wool storage;
- *There will be blankets, yarn and a few other items for sale to the farmers and to the public;
- *FAS will be there for you to sign up for USDA wool payment, weigh in your fleece(s) before being skirted;

NO FARM IS TOO SMALL – ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information, contact the
RI Sheep Cooperative at (401) 578-2012 or visit www.risheep.org

BE NICE TO YOUR SHEEP SHEARER

This article first appeared in The Working Border Collie, Inc. in May/June 1995
This was taken off the Maryland Small Ruminant Page www.sheepandgoat.com
by Mike Neary, Extension Sheep Specialist @ Purdue University

No question, shearing sheep is a physically demanding job. No wonder then that as sheep numbers have declined, so have the number of sheep shearers. So, if you are lucky enough to have a good shearer; keep him (or her). This article will outline several things; how to get a shearer, what you should expect of a shearer and what your shearer should expect of you.

Getting Someone to Shear

For people with small flocks or who live in an area with few sheep or shearers, just getting someone to shear can be a real problem. Many shearers cannot justify the time to travel and set-up their equipment to shear a small flock. Keep in mind a small flock (as defined by a shearer) would be less than 50 head. An experienced shearer, depending on conditions, can shear from 12 to 20 sheep per hour. Thus if you have 15 sheep to shear, you can't blame a shearer for not wanting to travel several hours round trip for one hour's worth of work and pay.

So what are some options for small flock owners to get their sheep shorn? There are several that should be considered and they include:

1. Hauling your sheep to a shearer's farm to have them shorn. This cuts down his travel and set-up time and makes it more worthwhile for him to shear small numbers of sheep.

2. Going together with other small flock owners in your area to schedule a "shearing day". This could either be at a central location, such as at a fairgrounds or at an individual's farm. However, this does require some coordination, planning and organizing.

3. Pay your shearer extra to justify the travel and set-up costs. This could be a mileage fee, a set-up fee or a trip cost. Some shearers I know will charge a minimum fee just to come to the farm (for small flocks), plus a per head charge to shear.

4. Learn to shear. Not an option for the faint-of-heart or the weak-of-back. However, there are shearing schools held all over the country, either sponsored by sheep organizations or your extension service.

Your Responsibilities at Shearing Time

Assuming you have successfully contracted a shearer to come to your farm, there are some common courtesies expected. Such as:

- Be there at the agreed upon time.
- Have the sheep up and ready to be shorn.
- Make sure the sheep are dry (Put in a dry, unbedded barn the night before if it is dewy or looks like rain).
- Have someone there to help. This may include catching sheep, sacking wool, sweeping the floor, running errands, etc.
- DO NOT trim feet, worm sheep, etc. at shearing time unless agreed to in advance by the shearer. This is very time consuming and is rude to the shearer. Most shearers are there to shear and like to get on with the job. Some shearers will worm your sheep and trim feet at shearing time; for a fee. Ask in advance.

- Call your shearer as soon as some unforeseen event happens to prevent shearing. Such as, your sheep get wet and cannot be shorn.

- Keep dogs away from the shearing floor. If you use dogs to fill pens and move sheep, try to keep them out of sight of the actual sheep being shorn. They can cause that sheep to fight and kick more than usual. Your shearer may be too polite to say anything, but they will not be pleased.

- Periodically offer the shearer a beverage (esp. if hot) and lunch if it is appropriate.

- Pay the shearer when the job is complete. He is a shearer, not a banker.

Responsibilities of the Shearer

A good shearer will treat his customers (producer and sheep) right. He should be dependable, do good work and charge a fair price. Some things a shearer should do:

- Call if he will be late. Sometimes a previous shearing job will take longer than anticipated. If so, the polite thing to do is notify those next on the list.

- Be very careful in not spreading disease from farm to farm.

- Charge a fair price. Shearers are paid on a per head basis, depending on how many sheep, what class (lambs, rams, ewes), etc.

— Treat the sheep well. Handle the sheep correctly (especially bred ewes) and try to avoid serious cuts (especially the penis, scrotum, vulva and teats on a ewe).

If a shearer does not live up to expectations, make a note not to hire him again. Most shearers are good people and work hard. Make sure you communicate your expectations to him.

Summary

Good shearers can be hard to find. Especially, if you have a small flock. You may have to be a bit creative in contracting the services of a shearer. If you do have or get a good one, "Be Nice to Your Sheep Shearer". They will likely be willing to return to shear for you again.

Editor's note: One thing that I find is not stressed enough is that the shearer should have a system of shearing that keeps the fleece clean for the producer. I have heard a lot of comments of recent where new shearers are not shearing on a mat, canvas or plywood but on the dirt floor of a barn or on the ground outside. It seems that the shearing schools do a great job of teaching the techniques, but they do not get the point across about keeping the fleeces clean and the value of the end result. My note to shearers: Remember that you are "harvesting" a value product for the farmer -- take care of it during shearing. The farmers want good, clean, dirt-free wool for the blankets (they will be very disappointed on Collection Day when we throw their wool aside because it is full of dirt or shavings). Also there are more and more people having a few sheep in their backyards for fleeces to spin. These people will not appreciate a shearer who does not tend to their future spinning fleece with great detail and concern! And my note to the farmer, ask your shear if they have a mat or rug, and if not, have a sheet of plywood available for them to shear on, keeping your fleece clean.

Aries 4-H Club Still Collecting Dino's Sales Slips

The Aries 4-H Club is still collecting sales slips from Dinosaurs' Park 'N Shop (located at 1020 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI) with all funds raised going towards the 4-H sheep show at the Foster Old Home Days in July. You may donate your Dino's sales slips by dropping them off at Snowhurst Farm (grain store) in Chepachet, or by sending them to Mrs. Christine Sederback, 199 Chestnut Hill Rd, Chepachet, RI 02814. If you would like to donate an award or money towards an award for the 4-H Sheep Show at Foster Old

Home Days, please contact Mrs. Sederback. And as always, thank you for your support of 4-H.

YOUTH SHEARERS:

These kids and their families are members of the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative, with a parent of each being a Board member at present. They shear small flocks – need your sheep sheared? Give one of them a call.

Brittany Sederback, of Chepachet, RI - FFA member, college student and former 4-Her, tel: (401)678-6915, email: agiwanuku@yahoo.com

Colin Siegmund of North Grovnersdale, CT – 4-H member, high school student – tel: (860) 315-7684, email: woolyone@charter.net

Taylor Meek of Chepachet, RI - former FFA and 4-H member, college student - tel: (401) 626-6599, email: durrh30@yahoo.com

EXPERIENCED SHEARER FOR LARGER FLOCKS:

Bill Cournoyer: Tel# (860) 887-3793 email: bill.cournoyer@gmail.com (best way to reach him)

SVF FOUNDATION

152 Harrison Avenue, Newport RI 02840

ANNUAL VISITORS DAY

Saturday, June 12, 2010 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

FREE ADMISSION

Free parking available at Fort Adams State Park Trolleys will shuttle between parking area and SVF 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

No Parking available on site at SVF

The SVF Foundation's mission is the cryo-preservation of endangered breeds of livestock. Every June for one day the public is invited to meet with our staff, veterinarians and scientific advisors at the historic Swiss Village. Along with a self-guided tour of the historic architecture and rare breed displays, our scientists will be offering liquid nitrogen demonstrations as well as in-depth explanations of the science behind cryopreservation and the need for genetic diversity in agriculture. For more information contact the main office at 401-848-7229 or e-mail info@svffoundation.org, website: www.svffoundation.org

Tidbits of Information....

VALBAZEN: (Pfizer - 11.36% Albendazole). Oral dewormer for use in cattle and sheep. Effective in the removal and control of liver flukes, tape worms, stomach worms, intestinal worms and lungworms. Sheep - .75 ml per 25 lb. of body weight. Do not give to pregnant ewes. Sheep 1 Liter will treat 664 animals weighing 50 lb. each. Slaughter withdrawal in sheep - 7 days.

IVERMECTIN SHEEP DRENCH: Broad spectrum oral wormer effectively treats and controls worms and bots in sheep. Safe for all ages of sheep both male and female. Dosage: 3 cc per 26 pounds of body weight using an oral drencher. 11 day withdrawal.

News from the Shamrock 4-H Club:

This Club recently sold hot dogs at the Tractor Supply Store in Coventry, and donated all proceeds to The Harrison Family of New York, who recently lost 100 animals (sheep, goats, pigs and rabbits) along with all equipment in a horrible barn fire. Many of the animals were 4-H projects for their daughters and a few belonged to local 4-H members.

Next up for this club: We are walking again for Noah and Easter Seals Early Intervention. Our Shamrock 4H Club will be participating in the WALK WITH ME for Easter Seals on Saturday, June 12, 2010 to help make a difference for local children with disabilities.

Location: Roger Williams Park Carousel

Route: 5k Family Fun Walk in the Park

Check In: 9 am --- Start time: 10 am

Date 6/12/2010

Easter Seals Walk With Me is all about putting hope within reach for people with disabilities. It's a chance for me, you and many others who want to experience the joy of helping by participating in a fun and uplifting event. I am asking you to Walk With Me to benefit Easter Seals programs in our community. The distance we walk is not as important as the reason we are walking, and how much we'll make a difference. Easter Seals Early Intervention has been such a great help for Noah! The staff, the programs, the play groups, just everything they offer has made such a difference in Noah's development these past 3 years! Please join our Shamrock 4H'ers in their 2nd Walk With Me. If you are not able to walk with us, but would like be a sponsor by donating, you can do this on-line on our team page or contact me with any questions, donations, etc. Everything you need including pledge forms etc, is online. However, I do also have about 22 registration forms w/pledge forms for those who would like to bring everything the day of the event. Sherri Andrukiewicz 401-397-9324 or via email hgpsherri@cox.net

Registration begins at 9am giving walkers plenty of time to check out the sponsor booths, listen to the talented DJ, enjoy FREE coffee, pastries and fresh fruit while warming up for your brisk walk. Upon completion of the walk, listen to and meet LiteRock 105, check out the sponsor booths and enjoy free tasty snacks. Youngsters will enjoy the kid friendly activities including face painting, cookie decorating and carousel rides. Paws the Pawtucket Red Sox mascot and Max Man from the RI Resource Recovery Corporation will be on hand to meet participants. The Boston Celtics have also joined as a sponsor, so you never know who you might be walking next to! We met Dana Barros of the Boston Celtics at a CVS kick off event and he & his family will be walking too! It's a fun family morning & early afternoon! Funds raise from the WALK will provide free Easter Seals services for children with disabilities and special needs. Last year Easter Seals RI helped nearly 400 local children with Early Intervention Services - Noah was one of them!! Click on the Web site link and visit my personal Easter Seals Walk With Me page to join my team today!

http://www.easterseals.com/site/TR/WalkWithMe/WWMProvidenceRI?px=3156116&pg=personal&fr_id=2728&fl=en_US&s_tafId=28212

Click the following to view the team page for Shamrock 4-H Club for Noah

http://www.easterseals.com/site/TR/WalkWithMe/WWMProvidenceRI?team_id=94445&pg=team&fr_id=2728&fl=en_US&s_tafId=28212

Contact me with any questions regarding our walk.

Sherri Lynn Andrukiewicz, 97 Mile Road, Coventry, RI 02816
401-397-9324, email: hgpsherri@cox.net

Brenda Titus, Club Leader says: Noah has Down Syndrome but he is an aspiring 4-H'er in the Shamrock Club (and he is still only 3 yrs old). We already have plans to set him up with a Shetland to get him started showing sheep! We did this walk last year and had a great time! It was the best time we had as a Club because all we had to do was walk and have fun! I would like to encourage all who can attend to join our team or support us in helping to reach our goal of \$750.00.

THINGS HAPPENING.....MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wool Collection Day, Saturday June 5, 2010 – information on front page of this newsletter.

Pipestone Lamb and Wool Facility Tour, June 7, 2010: The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program has dedicated itself to changing sheep production to make it more profitable for producers and is excited to offer a sheep facility tour. The purpose of the tour is to give producers an opportunity to see various types of sheep facilities,

including the latest innovations in sheep buildings, handling systems, feeding systems and facility layout. The tour will be a full day, visiting five Lamb and Wool producers with new and remodeled facilities. All of these operations have devised their buildings and feeding systems to reduce labor and enable them to run larger numbers of ewes with the same labor. Tour participants will see state of the art lambing barns, hoop barns, remodeled buildings, hoop barn with drive through feeding along with various feeding systems designed to reduce labor and minimize feed waste. Each farm also has sheep handling systems that are unique from one another. In addition, this will be an opportunity to hear the philosophy of sheep production from five successful sheep producers. Visit our website www.pipestonesheep.com for registration information and to view pictures of this year's tour locations.

Registration forms and additional information about our facility tour are available on our web page or individuals can contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, P.O. Box 250; Pipestone, MN 56164, 800-658-2330, mike.caskey@mnwest.edu, or philip.berg@mnwest.edu. [Philip Berg, Lamb and Wool Instructor, Minnesota West, Pipestone Campus, P.O. Box 250, 1314 North Hiawatha, Pipestone, MN 56164, tel: 507-825-6799, email: philip.berg@mnwest.edu website: www.pipestonesheep.com]

Southern RI 4-H Fair will be held **June 25-27, 2010** at the Washington County Fairgrounds, in Richmond, Rhode Island - www.uri.edu/4h .

Eastern RI Country Fair will be held on **July 17 & 18, 2010** on Glen Road, Portsmouth, RI - www.uri.edu/4h .

North East Youth Sheep Show will be held from **July 15th to 18th, 2010** (Thursday thru Sunday) at Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts - www.nesheep.org .

New England Sheep Sale will be held on **July 16 & 17, 2010** (Friday & Saturday) at Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts - www.nesheep.org .

Foster Old Home Days will be held on **July 23, 24 & 25, 2010** on the fairgrounds behind the Town Hall in Foster, RI - www.uri.edu/4h .

Washington County Fair will be held from **August 11 to 15, 2010** at the fairgrounds located on Route 112, Richmond, RI – for information to go: www.washingtoncountyfair-ri.com

Fall Workshop – Tentatively set for October 9, 2010: Tentatively planned, program to possibly cover (fall) lambing practices, shearing demonstration, how to skirt a fleece. This is tentative – check out the fall newsletter for more information and location! Everyone will be invited to attend.

RI Sheep Co-op's Fall Meeting: October 23, 2010 @ South Foster Fire Station, Rt. 94, Foster, Rhode Island. Doors open at 5:00

p.m., serving of pot luck dinner to start at 6:00 p.m., with short meeting and program to follow. Look in the next newsletter for more information.

DON'T FORGET... the first...**Fiber Festival of New England** to be held at the Big E Fairgrounds in West Springfield, on **November 6 & 7, 2010**. Many of your friends will be there buying their fiber for winter projects don't miss out!

Small Acreage Livestock

URI Fact Sheet & Self Assessment Series

Use the fact sheet and self-assessment series to learn more about proper livestock management. Identify potential risks and plan solutions on your own farm. In addition to the fact sheet and self-assessment series – there are web pages that organize additional resources by topic and state / region. There are also demonstration sites. Check it out at:

http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/livestock_publications.htm

http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/livestock_links.htm

Contact person:

Holly K. Burdett, Research Associate I

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1 Greenhouse Road, CIK Bldg, Kingston, RI 02881

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Email: hburdett@uri.edu

website: www.uri.edu/ce/wq

GET FRESH... BUY LOCAL is a new statewide Rhode Island-grown campaign to promote awareness of and interest in buying RI-Grown Specialty Crops. This campaign launched at the RI Ag Day 2009 Festivities at the State House on May 5, 2009. This exciting new effort is made possible by way of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) which RI DEM received in 208. The SCBG Program assists the Department of Ag in enhancing the competitiveness of US Specialty Crops. Specialty Crops ranges from fruits and vegetables to turf, nursery and horticulture. So remember to **GET FRESH...BUY LOCAL** and then you can brag that **I GOT FRESH IN RHODE ISLAND !!**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
FOR ACTIVITY UPDATES**

www.risheep.org

MEMO TO FARMERS OF RI

From: Al Bettencourt

Subject: Hearings

There will be hearings on all of our Finance Bills in the House on Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00 pm in Room 35 in the basement of the State House. Bills that will be heard include:

- *7268 Reduce Inheritance tax for farmers;
- *7271 Exempt Animal Feed from sales tax;
- *7109 Exempt farmers from electronic filing;
- *7269 Add Ag Land Preservation Commission to voluntary checkoff;
- *7610 Protect FFOS designation from other government entities;

Questions or comments – contact:

Al Bettencourt, Executive Director - RI Farm Bureau

2227 Plainfield Pike Rear, Johnston, RI 02919

401-647-3570 Fax: 401-647-0410 Cell: 401-556-7605

Member classifieds:

Attention Co-op Members We offer members the opportunity to place an ad in the upcoming newsletters free of charge. If you want to buy something or have something to sell – either sheep or sheep related – send your ad to Polly at khop4811@aol.com.

Wanted:

Part-time Farm Job

Saturday- Sunday- Monday

Experience with gardens and exposure to livestock, having worked 3 years at a New Hampshire farm museum. Also offering arts and crafts activities to children and adults for farm events.

Call Robin at (603) 662- 8158 (cell) or (401) 826-3013

Art lessons available.

WANTED:

The Board is looking for new faces! Members with enthusiasm and ideas are WANTED to serve on various committees. Chair of the Blanket Project, Chair of upcoming educational events, help with youth activities, and more. We welcome new ideas and volunteers. Contact our President, Polly Hopkins at Khop4811@aol.com or call 949-04619 (evenings) to volunteer, or give ideas, comments, or suggestions.

Lamb Panzanella

Serving Size: Makes 4 servings

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Cook Time: 8 minutes

Ingredients:

- 12 ounces of boneless leg of lamb, cut into four 3-ounce loin cutlets (you can ask the butcher to do this for you).
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 7 ounces kalamata olive bread, 2-3 days old, crust removed
- 4 medium sized tomatoes (about 1 pound), seeded and cut into ½ inch dice
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 cup low-fat feta, crumbled

Instructions:

Sprinkle loin cutlets with salt and pepper, then rub with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and set aside. Cut kalamata olive bread in small bite-sized pieces (1-inch dice), place in large bowl. Add tomatoes and basil and toss. In separate bowl mix *remaining* 3 tablespoons olive oil with white balsamic vinegar and lemon juice, add to bread mixture along with feta and salt and pepper. Let sit for at least 15 minutes or can be prepared up to 1 hour ahead of time. Grill lamb cutlets until desired doneness (medium rare is about 4 minutes on each side).

Place 1 1/2 cups of bread salad mixture on a flat plate or shallow bowl. Slice the grilled lamb into thin strips and place on top.

Garnish with fresh basil sprig.

Nutrition Per Serving:

518 calories, 32 g total fat, 77 mg cholesterol, 557 mg sodium, 30 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 26 g protein

This recipe is from <http://leanonlamb.com>. Look for more delicious summer meals.

Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative Officers and Directors for 2010-2011:

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|--------------------------|--|
| President: | Polly Hopkins |
| Vice President: | Ambrose Garvey |
| Recording Secretary: | Maryann Moulton |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Tony Patti |
| Treasurer: | Deb Hopkins |
| Assistant Treasurer: | Irene Nebiker |
| Directors: | Barbara Donnelly, Heather Place, Artie Siegmund |
| Youth Coordinator: | Christine Sederback |
| Blanket Chair: | Barbara Thompson |
| Ag Council Reps.: | Irene Nebiker, Fred Andrews, Christine Sederback (Alternate) |
