



The Producer

Maine Sheep Breeders Quarterly Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter

Late Summer 2011

Sheep & Goat Parasite Seminar

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension is partnering with the Maine Sheep Breeders Association and four goat associations in the state to present the Sheep and Goat Internal Parasites Seminar on Saturday, October 22, 2011. The educational training is designed to equip producers with skills and knowledge about the identification and management of internal parasites. "Parasites are the biggest health problem for sheep and goats in Maine," says Extension Educator, Richard Brzozowski, "Parasites of sheep and goats are costly and can easily put someone out of business. For an efficient and profitable sheep or goat enterprise, parasite control needs to be deliberate and persistent".

The day-long educational session is planned for Saturday, October 22, 2011 at Kennebec Community College in Fairfield, Maine and will feature Maryland Small Ruminant Specialist, Susan Schoenian. The cost of the Saturday seminar is \$30.00 per person and includes lunch and reference materials.

For registration materials and information, please contact the University of Maine Cooperative Extension at 1-800-287-1471 or visit the web site <http://umaine.edu/livestock/blog/2011/08/31/sheep-goat-parasite-seminar/>

UMaine Extension Offers Intermediate & Advanced Sheep Shearing School

NEW GLOUCESTER, MAINE --University of Maine Cooperative Extension is partnering with the Maine Sheep Breeders Association to present an Intermediate/Advanced Sheep Shearing School on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, Maine. The educational training is designed to help experienced sheep shearers hone their skills, gain knowledge related to sheep and shearing and will feature certified sheep shearer, Jim Bristol of Michigan. The cost of the hands-on school is \$45.00 per person and includes lunch and reference materials.

"Shearing sheep is difficult work and bodies tend to wear out," says UMaine Extension Educator, Richard Brzozowski, "This school will help shearers gain practical skills in properly preparing themselves for shearing, handling sheep, maintaining equipment and improving their shearing techniques."

For registration materials, or to request special accommodations, contact Colleen Hoyt at (207) 781-6099 or (800) 287-1471 (in Maine), or colleen.hoyt@maine.edu. You can also visit <http://umaine.edu/livestock/>. UMaine Extension programs are open and accessible to all in accordance with program goals. To provide adequate time to respond to your request please provide as much notice as possible.



The 2011 Wool Pool was held during the Northeast Livestock Expo on Saturday May 21st. Thank you to all producers, members and volunteers who took part in this years pool and workshops. I have served as sheep manager for the event the past three years and feel it is time to allow others the chance to bring fresh ideas and activities to the event. Please contact the NELE general manager if you would like the opportunity to work with a great group of volunteers on this excellent event.

MSBA also is in need of 2012 wool pool manager. Please email me if this position interests you msba@me.com - Thank you Lisa Webster

Articles, advertising and comments of the "Producer" may be sent to Lisa Webster, secretary of MSBA at msba@me.com

As a paid member of MSBA you received our newsletter four times per year. You are entitled to participate in the annual cooperative Wool Pool sale of fleece. You receive marketing and political representation at state, regional and national levels. You meet a great group of people who love to share information about their animals, their farm and their products as well as information about breeding, management and marketing techniques.

MSBA board of directors meets 6-8 times per year and encourage membership involvement at the board of directors meetings as well as on committees and volunteering for one of our many events and educational programs. Everyone has something to contribute: We encourage you to reach out to Lisa Webster or Richard Brzozowski and volunteer a few hours for the good of all.

Remember MSBA members are "sheep people, by sheep people for all sheep people".

Maine Sheep Breeders Association Membership Form

Name _____ Farm Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Website _____

Breeds of sheep _____

MSBA membership year is Jan 1-Dec 31
\$20.00 per year/per farm.
If you paid after June 1 2010
you are all set until 2012



Make check payable to: **MSBA Treasurer**
Mail to: Richard Brzozowski
525 Cobb Bridge Rd
New Gloucester, ME 04260

Many of our members opened their farms to the public during Maine Open Farm Day In July.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this popular public event.



SHEEP MANAGEMENT during Breeding Season

A management calendar of suggested practices to follow is useful to the beginning as well as experienced producers in managing the sheep flock. Sheep production evolves around the lambing season. Therefore, the production cycle starts approximately 6 months prior to the date you want your first lambs to be born.

The following guidelines are not intended to fit every sheep operation but merely serve as suggested practices that might be useful if they fit your operation. Because every sheep operation is different, a separate sheep calendar should be tailored to fit a flock's needs.

PRIOR TO BREEDING

Purchase rams 45-60 days prior to start of breeding season.

Drench ewes and rams for internal parasites.

Trim feet (do rams 30 days prior to start of breeding season).

Shear rams.

Provide cool environment for rams.

Condition rams by giving some grain if too thin.

Shoot for a 3.5 body condition score.

Vaccinate ewes for campylobacteriosis (vibrio) and enzootic abortion (EAE).

Begin flushing ewes 2-3 weeks prior to start of breeding season and continue into breeding.

BREEDING

Use marker on rams - change color every 17 days.

Observe breeding activity of rams, remove boss rams, rotate rams.

If weather is hot, run rams with ewes at night and keep in cool environment during day.

Remove rams after 51 days.

Information supplied by James M. Thompson Extension Sheep Specialist Oregon State University



Jeff Burchstead

Sheep Shearer

8 Years Experience

All Breeds of Sheep

Gentle Handling

Will Travel Most Anywhere

207-882-8082

buckwheatblossomfarm

@gmail.com

Ad rates: Business Card size, print ready \$100 for 4 issues, \$35 for a single issue. Interested in sponsoring a full issue? Please contact msba@me.com to discuss availability and costs

We are in need of a volunteer to produce our quarterly newsletter. If you are interested in helping with this very important project please contact me, thank you in advance for your help - Lisa Webster



MSBA website

www.mainesheepbreeders.com

MOFGA's 35th Common Ground Country Fair, Sept. 23-25, 2011

Celebrate rural living at the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association's 35th annual Common Ground Country Fair in Unity, Maine, Fri.-Sun., Sept. 23, 24, and 25, 2011. Not to be missed by fiber lovers is the Fleece Tent, showcasing the best of Maine-grown wool and specialty fibers. Sale ongoing all three days, 9:00-6:00, Friday and Saturday, and 9:00-5:00, Sunday. There will also be informal fiber talks and demonstrations. Fleece judging is Saturday, starting at 10:00. Be sure, also, to visit the Wednesday Spinners and the Fiber Marketplace, both adjacent to the Fleece Tent; the booths in the Maine Fiber Farms area; and the many fiber businesses in the Maine Ag Booths area. Everyone is invited to an open spin with the Wednesday Spinners on Sunday, Sept. 25, 10:00-4:00. Please join us! FMI about the Fair, especially for opportunities to volunteer, visit www.mofga.org. For additional Fleece Tent information, contact Penelope Olson at mizoly@midcoast.com or telephone 207-785-2784.



October 2-9, 2011

Fryeburg Fair Fiber Show and Sale October 2 - October 9, 2011 In the Fiber Center across from the Llama Building

Show Date: Sunday, October 2, 11 AM. Judge Ann Gass
Classes: Sheep, Llama, Alpaca, Cashmere, Angora and Mohair, Kid Mohair, Adult Mohair, Colored Angora, White Angora, Colored primitive Sheep, and White primitive sheep. Fleeces and fiber may be brought in Saturday afternoon, 1 - 4 PM To enter: Contact Lyn Terranova, 207-293-3435 or e-mail:

jltterranova@fairpoint.net.

ALL WEEK IN THE FIBER CENTER Fleece and fiber sales, ongoing demonstrations of all fiber arts from raw fleece to finished products, felting, weaving, dyeing, educational displays, hands-on-learning, access to fiber artists, and gallery display of the Guest Artist Fiber Artwork are in progress. For more information: Contact Gale Bellew at e-mail: gardneregale@juno.com.

2011 Annual Members Dinner and Meeting

will be held on Saturday October 22 beginning at 5pm.

The event will take place at the Kennebec Community College in Fairfield, Maine and we welcome three guest speakers this year!



5:00 social

5:30 welcome & supper featuring Maine lamb

6:15 announcements - short business meeting as required

6:30 News from the American Lamb Board (regional representative)

7:00 Maryland Small Ruminant Specialist, Susan Schoenian

7:30 Wool usage in the building trade, Al Maloney

7:45 or 8:00 adjourn

Message from the President



Dear Friends,

I apologize for not having an early summer "Producer". Like everyone else time and work constraints have not allowed me to sit down with Lisa and help with my small portion of the editing. Last I knew it was April and now it is September.

With the cool temperatures and much rain this growing season I hope everyone put in an abundance of 1st cut hay because 2nd cut will be light. Also a heads up straw will be scarce this fall which means higher prices for what is available. Remember it usually will save you money to buy in bulk (600 or so bales to the load). Splitting loads between neighboring farmers is a nice way to work together and save money for everyone.

My statement for this "Producer" is we are seeking and need new volunteers to get involved with MSBA. It does not matter if you have two or twenty sheep please think about becoming actively involved with the Board and the activities held on behalf of the membership. We have a great organization but new ideas and energy help us to better serve our loyal members.

This summer, Lisa and I had the opportunity to visit sheep farms in Minnesota and Iowa during the Howard Wyman Leadership School put together each year by American Sheep Industry and the National Lamb Feeders Association. I strongly recommend you contact us and learn more about the farming techniques used to raise lamb across the country. It was extremely educational to see how sheep operations in the mid west are managed. Upon our return and review of our farmland in Maine I am more convinced than ever that Maine is a great state to raise lambs either for the open market or for direct sales to the consumers.

In closing, please consider joining Maine Sheep Breeders Association and if you are already a member THANK-YOU. Please consider joining our Board of Directors. You will not be disappointed in the time volunteered. Looking forward to visiting with everyone at the annual dinner and meeting on Saturday October 22 at the Kennebec Comm College. We gather at 5pm at the conclusion of a great daylong workshop on parasites and how to control them in your flock. Maryland Small Ruminant Specialist, Susan Schoenian will be the guest speaker for the day. She along with a director from the American Lamb Board will be speaking after supper. This will be followed by a presentation by Al Maloney on construction products now available made from wool.

I hope you have a chance to exhibit at or visit any of the many fairs this summer. ENJOY! Sincerely - Phil Webster

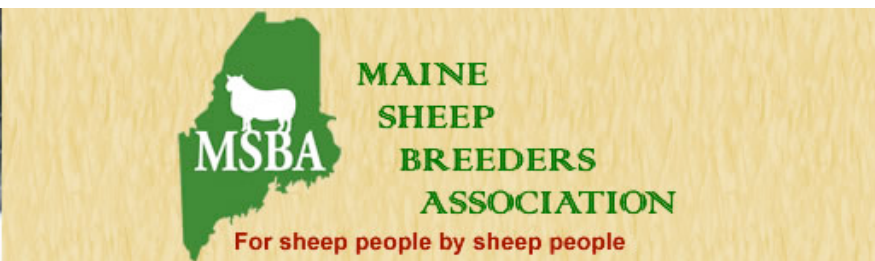
Sheep Foot Health Project - participating farms sought

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is partnering with eleven other northeast states (from Maine to West Virginia) to recruit sheep producers for a SARE-funded Sheep Foot Health Project. The purpose of the project is to help producers eliminate footrot from their flocks and keep it from reoccurring.

Visit the Sheep Foot Health Project website at <http://umaine.edu/sheep> to learn more about the project and the benefits and requirements of flock participation. An application packet is available on the website. All information submitted by participants about their flock and farm will be held in strict confidence.

Though only a limited number of sheep flocks can be active participants in the project, all sheep and goat producers will benefit from the educational programs and materials that the Sheep Foot Health Project will generate over the next few years.

Footrot is one of the most insidious diseases affecting sheep and goats. It is both preventable and curable. It presents itself as lame sheep, sheep that kneel to graze and sheep with hoof separation





MSBA
Phillip Webster, President
PO Box 1867
Windham, ME 04062

MSBA events

Common Ground Fair
September 23, 24 & 25, 2011
Unity, Maine

Sheep & Goat Parasite Seminar
Saturday, October 22, 2011
KVCC Fairfield, Maine

MSBA Annual Supper & Meeting
Saturday, October 22, 2011 5pm
KVCC Fairfield, Maine

MSBA Board of Directors Meeting
To plan 2012 events
November 22 6:30pm
The Great Wall Buffet in Augusta
Members are encouraged to attend we will be planning our events for 2012 at this meeting.

MSBA contacts

President — Phillip Webster
northstarfarms@me.com

Vice President — Mary Burr
bburr@tdstelme.net

Treasurer — Richard Brzozowski
richard.brzozowski@maine.edu

Secretary — Lisa Webster msba@me.com

A complete list of the Directors and their contact information is available at the MSBA website
www.mainesheepbreeders.com

We have several positions opening this fall on the Board of Directors. If you would be interested in serving for a two year term please contact me .

Lisa Webster- Secretary for the MSBA