



The Producer

Maine Sheep Breeders Quarterly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2012

MSBA Annual Meeting and Dinner 2012

... took place on Saturday, October 27, at the KVCC in Fairfield, ME. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!



We attended and enjoyed a delicious meal featuring North Star Farm's lamb, prepared by Lisa Webster and her mother Linda.

The featured speakers included:

Anne Lichtenwalner, DVM, PhD (Assist. Professor, Cooperative Extension/Dept. of Animal and Vet. Sciences, UMaine, Orono) talked about her studies on Ovine Progressive Pneumonia.

Jim Weber, DVM, PhD (Assoc. Professor and chair, Dept. of Animal and Vet. Sciences, UMaine, Orono) talked about his efforts to eradicate the barber pole worm in Maine.

Tom Colyer (Vice chair of ASI's American Wool Council) talked about new US wool products for the US military.

Harold Gibbs - Maine Shepherds Hall of Fame 2012

Harold Gibbs, PhD, was inducted into the Maine Shepherds' Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, his health did not allow him to be present. Richard Brzozowski will present the award to him in person at a later time.

Harold Gibbs earned his PhD in Veterinary Pathology and worked for many years at the Department of Animal Sciences as well as the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab of the University of Maine. His extensive and pioneering research in ruminant intestinal parasites resulted in very useful information for the control of parasites in sheep and cattle, as well as wildlife species. He shared his impressive knowledge and experience freely with his undergraduate and graduate students, colleagues at the university, regional, national and international meetings, as well as with sheep farmers in Maine and beyond. He is author of important works of veterinary parasitology. He served as president of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists in 1988-1989. His accomplishments in the fields of veterinary parasitology and general pathology are internationally recognized. Our understanding of the cycles of nematode parasites within and without the host organism was greatly improved due to his work. His contributions to understanding ovine internal parasites have resulted in management changes, that greatly increased ovine productivity in our region.

*Dorothee Grimm, editor;
using information provided by Anne Lichtenwalner and Michael Opitz, both of UMaine*

Sheep, Goat, and Camelid Seminar 2012—Focus on Fiber

This year's seminar was held at the Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield, ME on October 27. It focused on fiber from sheep, goats, and camelids. A variety of presenters highlighted each fiber's characteristics and the care needed specific to the fiber and animal. The main sheep presenter was Joe Miller, who raises different sheep breeds for wool at Rivercroft Farm in Starks, ME. S. "Pogo" Pogorelc from Friends' Folly Farm and Fiber Mill in Monmouth, ME was the main speaker for angora and pygora goats. Wendy Pieh from Springtide Farm in Bremen spoke about cashmere goats. Pamela Harwood from Longwoods Alpaca Farm in Cumberland, ME focused on alpacas and llamas.



In split sessions we learned about the types and grades of wool, the different classification systems (like Micron, Bradford), and the preferred uses for each fiber. The influences of nutrition on fiber quality, the pros and cons of coating sheep, timing of and preparation for shearing were among other topics discussed. Tom Settlemyre, PhD, Prof. Emeritus Bowdoin College, talked about the use of genetics to improve fleece quality and influence sheep color.

After a delicious lunch featuring North Star Farm's lamb (prepared by Lisa Webster and her mother Linda), Silvery Moon Creamery's cheese and Highmoor Farm's apples, we reconvened to learn about the care for the fleece after shearing (or combing out, as required for cashmere goats). A panel of fiber buyers introduced themselves and what kind of fiber they are looking to buy and how much they are willing to pay. The panel included Anne Gass, former sheep farmer and spinner extraordinaire; Wendy Kane, Fiber Frolic fleece tent coordinator; Bill Laurita, Swans Island; Lindsay Rice, Bartlett Yarns; S. "Pogo" Pogorelc, Friends' Folly Farm and Fiber Mill.

James McConnon, PhD, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, presented business management strategies for fiber farmers. His key tips: develop a business plan; keep good financial records; target your market; research your market; brand your business; educate your customers; price your products for profit; practice excellent customer care; connect with customers through web and diversify your marketing strategies.

Dorothee Grimm, editor

MSBA Classifieds

Do you have something to sell?
Are you looking for something to buy?

Classifieds in The Producer as well as on the MSBA website are free to MSBA members.

Contact webmaster Al Maloney at al@newaim.net or editor Dorothee Grimm at dorothee.grimm@web.de to place your ads.

MSBA Board of Directors

Confirmed/elected during the MSBA Board of Directors meeting on November 20, 2012:

Interim President: Al Maloney, NEWAIM Farm, Waldoboro, ME; al@newaim.net

Vice President: Brant Miller, Bowdoinham, ME; bsmiller99@gmail.com

Treasurer: Richard Brzozowski, Buckminster Farm, New Gloucester, ME; richard.brzozowski@maine.edu

Secretary: Nancy Webster, Belfast, ME; woolweb@aol.com

Donna Flint, Oak Ridge Farm, Sanford, ME; donna.flint@maine.edu

Jim Grant, Good Karma Farm and Spinning Co, Belfast, ME; info@goodkarmafarm.com

Dorothee Grimm, Scarborough, ME; dorothee.grimm@web.de

Cindy Kilgore, ME; Cindy.Kilgore@maine.gov

Joe Miller, Rivercroft Farm, Starks, ME; rivercroft@dialmaine.com

Diane Schivera, Appleton, ME; dianes@mofga.org

Lisa Webster, North Star Farm, Windham, ME; northstarfarm@me.com

Philip Webster, North Star Farm, Windham, ME; northstarfarm@me.com



We welcome the new Board of Director members Jim Grant and Nancy Webster, who will each serve as directors for three years. Nancy will also serve as secretary. We look forward to a productive year.

MSBA Calendar of Events and BOD (Board of Director) Meetings 2013

January 8-10: The 72nd annual Agricultural Trades Show will be held at the Augusta Civic Center. Admission is FREE! Show hours: Tuesday, Jan. 8, 9am-5pm; Wednesday, Jan. 9, 9am-8pm; Thursday, Jan. 10, 9am-3pm.
Jan. 9, 6pm: MSBA meeting, featuring David Kennard, Wellscroft Farm, Harrisville, NH
More information at www.getrealmaine.com



January 15, 6:30pm: BOD conference call. Phone number will be distributed to the BOD and interested members.

March 1: The Producer to be sent out. Please submit all articles to the editor by February 15.

March 16, 11am: Farm tour at Philip and Lisa Webster's North Star Farm, Windham, followed by BOD meeting and potluck.

March 22-23: Meat conference, Concord, NH. For more information, please contact Diane Schivera dianes@mofga.org

April 5-6: Blade Shearing School, New Gloucester (more information on p.3 of this newsletter)

April 20: Beginner Shearing School, Freeport (more information on p.3 of this newsletter)

May 4: Beginner Shearing School, Littleton (more information on p.3 of this newsletter)

May 17-19: Northeast Livestock Expo (NELE), Windsor Fairgrounds.
More information at www.northeastlivestockexpo.com

June 1: The Producer to be sent out. Please submit all articles to the editor by May 15.

June 2-3: Maine Fiber Frolic and MSBA Wool Pool, at the Windsor Fairgrounds. More information at www.fiberfrolic.com

Please check our website frequently for updates to the calendar www.mainesheepbreeders.com

Emerging Maine Sheep Entrepreneurs – Project Description
Start date: January 1, 2013
- A 30 month educational effort to equip new sheep producers in Maine -

Developed for MSBA by Dr. Richard Brzozowski, Extension Educator – Agriculture,
richard.brzozowski@maine.edu 1-800-287-1471

The Maine Sheep Breeders Association has partnered with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in developing a 2 ½ year educational project for emerging sheep entrepreneurs in Maine.

Performance Target for the Project

By the end of a 30-month period, a minimum of 10 new sheep entrepreneurial couples (20 individuals) in Maine will gain practical knowledge and skills that will positively influence their success in the sheep business. Each participant will develop and/or expand their sheep enterprise as a sound business with documented proof of a written business plan, a marketing plan, sheep production records and financial records for their sheep enterprise.

Milestones to reach the Performance Target

- ✦ At least 200 sheep producers in Maine will learn about the educational program for Emerging Sheep Entrepreneurs with a majority of these responding to a survey determining availability and interest.
 - ✦ Individuals representing at least 25 sheep operations will attend an informational session on the multi-year project. At least 10 farms will agree to participate in the education program and commit to complete the 30-month program.
 - ✦ All participants will complete a needs assessment to identify and prioritize specific educational needs. A customized plan to reach those needs will be developed.
 - ✦ Participants will complete a benchmark card identifying their starting point for the project. They will self-identify and monitor their skill and knowledge levels in sheep production and marketing using an established checklist.
- Participants will actively take part in and complete the 30-month program that will include classroom workshops, webinars, discussion groups, learning tours and self study.

Methodology

The methods to be used to equip participating individuals and couples with knowledge and skills will include classroom instruction; webinars; on-line courses, discussion groups; educational tours; hands-on activities; and self study. A survey will be used to identify and assess needs of each participant at the start of each year. At least six (6) educational programs will be developed and presented for project participants per year. At the start of the project, each participant will identify, develop and document their individual goals for themselves and their sheep enterprise.

Participant Requirements & Expectations

Each participating farm . . .

- must have less than 10 years of sheep experience. *Producers with over 10 years of sheep experience can participate in some educational portions of the project.*
- must be a member of the Maine Sheep Breeders Association/American Sheep Industry Association.
- will pay a nominal fee of \$75.00/farm to help offset project expenses.
- must have an active email address and access to the Internet.
- will keep a journal (recorded or written) to document their personal growth.
- is required to keep production records of their sheep, including 30, 60 and 90 day weights of lambs and brood ewe performance/year.
- will use Scrapie ear tags to identify individual sheep on their farm.
- will be required to have a written biosecurity plan for their farming operation.
- is required to keep financial records of their sheep enterprise.
- will learn to use Quickbooks for their farm enterprises.
- will plan to submit an annual Schedule F to the IRS
- will develop a portfolio documenting their mastering of skills and knowledge.
- must have a written business plan by the end of year 1. *Their respective plan can be changed at any time.*
- is encouraged to participate in at least one of the following Sheep Management Courses (online) over the 30-month period: These courses are currently offered by the Pipestone Lamb & Wool Program.

cont.

Emerging Maine Sheep Entrepreneurs continued:

<http://www.mnwest.edu/index.php/management/lamb-and-wool/online-sheep-management#manage>

Cost per credit Fall/Spring Semester 2011-2012: \$189.31 per credit.

Introduction to Sheep Management - LWMP 1001 – one credit

Equipment & Facilities - LWMP 1202 – two credits

Introduction to Sheep Health - LWMP 1300 – two credits

Ewe Ration Formulation - LWMP 1502 – one credit

Wool Characteristics and Properties - LWMP 1701 – two credits

- will view “Lambing Time Management Series” (Recorded Presentations from Pipestone Lamb & Wool program)
http://www.mnwest.edu/images/lamb-and-wool/lambing_time_management_recorded_form.pdf
- will be strongly encouraged to participate in the “Sheep for Profit School” offered by Pipestone Lamb & Wool program
<http://www.mnwest.edu/index.php/management/lamb-and-wool/sheep-for-profit>

**Emerging Maine Sheep Entrepreneurs
Enrollment Form**

Start date: January 1, 2013

I/We wish to enroll in the 30-month Emerging Maine Sheep Entrepreneurs project. I/We understand that annual membership in MSBA and a one-time fee of \$75 are required/farm to participate in this project. I/We have read and understand my (our) responsibilities and expectations as a participant(s).

Name (s) _____

Farm Name _____

Mailing Address _____

_____ **Zip code** _____

Phone(s) _____

Email address _____

Individuals, couples and families are encouraged to participate.

List individual names and their years of sheep raising experience beside each name on the lines below.

[] Enclosed is a check for \$75 made payable to Maine Sheep Breeders Association.

Return this completed form ASAP and before December 31, 2012 to:

**Emerging Maine Sheep Entrepreneurs
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
75 Clearwater Drive, Suite 104
Falmouth, ME 04105**

October 5, 2012 version

Sheep Shearing Schools Planned for 2013

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has partnered with the Maine Sheep Breeders Association in planning three sheep shearing schools for Spring 2013. "With sheep markets strong, there is a push to expand sheep numbers. There is a need for skilled sheep shearers across the country," says Extension Educator Richard Brzozowski.

The first school is a two-day blade shearing school using non-electric hand shears and will feature renown blade shearer Kevin Ford of Massachusetts. The school will take place on Friday and Saturday, April 5-6 at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, Maine starting at 8:00 AM. This school is limited to ten students. The fee for this school is \$85 per student. Lunch for each day and a shearing manual are included in the course fee. Spectators are welcome.

The two other sheep shearing schools are beginner level schools. These day-long schools are planned for Saturday, April 20 in Freeport, Maine and Saturday, May 4 in Littleton, Maine and will feature teams of shearing instructors. These schools are limited to 15 participants each, with a fee of \$35 each per student. Lunch and a shearing manual are included in the course fee.

For more information or to register, please contact UMaine Extension at 207-781-6099 or email colleen.hoyt@maine.edu



Dear Sheep Breeders,

Lisa Webster has edited the MSBA's quarterly newsletter for the past couple years, and on behalf of MSBA, I am thanking her for doing a wonderful job. I am excited to introduce myself as the new editor for The Producer. I am looking forward to report to you about past and future endeavors of Maine sheep breeders, focusing on meat, fiber, dairy, grazing, etc.

I encourage you to contact me with your ideas and articles for publication in this newsletter.

If you have pictures of your farm or animals you like to share with the MSBA membership, please email them to me.

I always welcome your feedback, comments, and suggestions.

Dorothee Grimm, Scarborough, ME

As a paid member of MSBA you receive this newsletter four times per year. You are entitled to participate in the annual cooperative Wool Pool sale of fleece (at the Maine Fiber Frolic on the first weekend in June). 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.

The MSBA board of directors (BOD) meets 6-8 times per year. We 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. Please contact Nancy Webster or Richard Brzozowski and volunteer a few hours for the good of all. Maine Sheep Breeders' Association - by sheep people for all sheep people.





Message from the interim president

My name is Al Maloney. My wife Nancy Williams and I own NEWAIM Farm and Fiber Mill in Waldoboro. We have been raising livestock since 1999 and sheep since 2009. We run a small operation with a focus primarily on fiber. I have been on the MSBA Board of Directors for the last 2 years.

Phil and Lisa Webster have been the driving force behind MSBA for many years. Their enthusiasm and dedication have brought MSBA and the sheep industry in Maine to the excellent position we enjoy today. Their lamb operation has grown dramatically over the last couple of years and now demands all of their free time. They have asked that someone else take over the leadership role of our organization. At the November Board Meeting, I agreed to take over the role of President on an interim basis while we seek out someone more connected with the main stream sheep industry to fill the role. Anyone interested in being MSBA President should contact me at newaim@midcoast.com.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Winter is rapidly approaching and we all are buttoning things around the farm. Soon we will be thinking of spring and lambing season. Everything comes full circle, and we start the cycle again.

Maine Sheep Breeders Association 2013 Membership Dues payable by Jan 31, 2013

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.

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



MSBA
Maine Sheep Breeders Association
Dorothee Grimm
227 Black Point Rd
Scarborough, ME 04074



"Ram Line"
Frelsi Farm Icelandics, Limerick, ME