



The Producer

Maine Sheep Breeders Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2014

Message from the MSBA President

During this very long, cold, snow filled winter perhaps you can use the early evenings and snow days to plan for lambing and spring projects. I trust each of you have plans to attend one or more of the many sheep related programs available to members. Winter conferences are available here in Maine, across New England and nationally. During January I was able to attend the national conference of the American Sheep Industry held in the heart of our fiber industry Charleston, South Carolina. This event brought together 300 sheep specialists, sheep producers and educators from across the country for four days, jam packed with meetings and industry events. If you have considered attending I highly encourage you to make plans for the 150th anniversary conference to be held in late Jan 2015 in Reno Nevada. The 2015 conference will be held at the John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nevada. John Ascuaga, the owner of John Ascuaga's Nugget hotel and casino, is the son of a Basque immigrant sheepherder who worked his way up from the bottom to build an entertainment empire but never forgot his roots. The history of the Ascuaga family can be read at <http://www.livestockweekly.com/papers/97/09/18/whlnugget.html> More info on the resort is available at <http://www.janugget.com> 2014 Conference summary and later this summer information for the 2015 conference can be found at <http://www.sheepusa.org>

Please remember to send in your membership form and \$20 to ensure you receive communications and notices for our events in 2014. We also communicate to our members on the Maine Sheep Breeders Facebook page and through our webpage www.Mainesheepbreeders.com although neither of these social sites are as inclusive as the four issues of the "Producer" newsletter sent to active members. I wish each of you the best with your spring lambing and please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our directors with questions, concerns and suggestions on how we can make our Maine Sheep Breeders membership a more valuable tool for you.

Lisa Webster,
msba@me.com, 207-838-9410



Correction from the Winter 2013 issue

p. 6: Tom Settlemire was inducted into the MSBA Hall of Fame in 2007, not 2011. Not mentioned was that Tom was the recipient of the Flock Guardian award from the ASI in 1994, for his contributions to the US sheep industry.



Dear Sheep Breeders,
When I took over the editorship of our newsletter I was a little worried about how to get articles and whom to contact. I have been humbled by the willingness of members to share their knowledge in the form of articles. A big Thank You to all contributors!
Please remember - if you want to re-read an article from a previous newsletter issue, they are posted on the MSBA website <http://mainesheepbreeders.com/Producer.shtml>
I encourage you to contact me with your ideas and articles for publication in this newsletter, pictures of your farm or animals you like to share with other sheep breeders, as well as your feedback, comments, and suggestions. Happy reading.

Dorothee Grimm, editor

Biosecurity - Risks of Disease Transmission: Safer Shearing

*University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Sheep Foot Health Research & Education*

General concepts:

The information provided in this fact sheet is common sense, and much of it you probably already know. But after reading this, you may develop a careful, systematic approach to avoiding the spread of disease. This will help promote your professional status, and keep your clients happy.

You are going to handle every animal, and you have a great chance to see problems the owner may not have seen. You can help prevent problems by first, asking the owner:

1. to sort out sheep with any “lumps” so you can handle them last. These might be CL (Caseous Lymphadenitis), and you don’t want to spread it. Try not to rupture the abscess. If you find an abscess while you are shearing **STOP AND DISINFECT** your equipment and hands. If you can, put on clean coveralls before doing any more sheep. Advise owner to separate out all sheep with abscesses, and consider laboratory diagnosis, treatment, vaccine against CL, and/or culling these.
2. handle and shear sheep from youngest to oldest, if possible. This way, you shear those most likely to be healthy first. This lessens the chance of spreading disease.
3. do they want you to trim hooves? If so, trim after shearing. Advise the owner if you see hoof rot or hoof scald to mark or sort out, and then treat, these animals. Disinfect hoof trimmers after trimming animals with foot rot/scald.
4. are you shearing rams? Be sure to check the scrotum and the prepuce for lumps, uneven size, fly strike, etc. Let the owner know if you find a problem.

Time between farm visits:

If you can, try to schedule a day without any animal contact between farm visits. This allows any viruses or bacteria that might be on your vehicle, equipment, clothing or self to die (because there are no sheep, their favorite hosts, to support them). If you can’t:

1. **Clean the vehicle:** If you are quite busy and can’t schedule a break between farms (or if you have your own animals at home), then be doubly careful about disinfection between flock visits. How? Start with the tires. After leaving a farm, or before entering a new one, find a place with a hose and drain (like a gas station). Use a long handled scrub brush and soap up the tires, then rinse them well. Better yet, simply go through the car wash.
2. **Clean clothes/coverall:** Change into a clean shirt, gloves and coveralls between farms. Put dirty clothes into a plastic sack, and then launder separately from other clothing as soon as possible. Remember, though line drying is great, driers are much more effective at killing ticks on clothing.
3. **Clean boots:** If your boots are washable, clean them with a disinfectant (mud and manure carry germs: be sure to remove them from the soles!). If your boots are leather/fabric, at least brush them off and use a spray such as Lysol to disinfect.
4. **Clean hands:** If you work bare-handed, wash your hands well, and keep a hand sanitizer in your vehicle for use when there aren’t good hand washing facilities provided.

Who you bring:

Coworkers and children: make sure they do what you do. You’re responsible for their actions on the farm. Dogs are an essential part of working sheep, but be sure that they don’t act as vectors of disease. Dogs working with sheep should be wormed for tapeworms every 2 months, as sheep can become infected with several kinds of tapeworms from grazing near dog fecal material that carries tapeworm eggs. Dogs can also become infected with tapeworms by eating uncooked sheep intestines/offal. Keep your dog under your control, or at home.

Equipment:

Shearing equipment may carry ectoparasites, such as keds or lice, from sheep to sheep. In addition, the bacteria that causes Caseous Lymphadenitis, or CL, can be spread by non-disinfected clippers and shears. It’s vital to disinfect the equipment between farms, and best to disinfect between sheep.

Handling sheep:

Shearing is hard work, though an excellent shearer makes it look easy. The less trauma to the animal, the less chance of disease transmission. The quieter and more relaxed the animal, the easier your job will be, too.

continued on p. 3

Safer Shearing - continued from p. 2

After you shear:

Clean and disinfect your equipment as you put it away. Put coveralls into plastic bags or Tupperware type bins for cleaning later. Remember to wash the tires or whole vehicle after you leave the farm. It may be a good idea to stop by the carwash between farms.

Selecting and Using Disinfectants:

1. **Nicks on sheep:** tamed iodine ("Betadine") solution; dilute per label directions.
2. **Bleeding hooves:** untamed iodine (7% iodine) or blood-stop ("styptic") powder.
3. **Deep cuts:** advise owner to suture and to use antibiotics; you may clean with Betadine.
4. **Boots/vehicle:** dilute bleach solution (10 tablespoons bleach per gallon of water).
5. **Clippers:** Clippercide or similar bacteriocidal spray designed for clippers.
6. **Clothing:** regular, HOT water washing and DRYING at the "high" heat setting will kill viruses, bacteria and parasites. (This is also very effective against ticks and fleas in animal bedding).
7. **Other:** Nolvasan™ (chlorhexidine) solution is generally effective, but don't overdo the use of disinfectants when simple washing and drying will do. Dilute per label directions.

For more articles on biosecurity go to <http://umaine.edu/sheep/biosecurity/>



*Research team (L to R):
Drs Anne Lichtenwalner, Tom Settlemire,
Charles Parker, Richard Brzozowski*



2014 ASI Convention – Roadmap Announced

A report from Richard Brzozowski, MSBA Treasurer

Three MSBA members attended the 2014 American Sheep Industry Convention in Charleston, South Carolina in late January. MSBA President Lisa Webster, Brant Miller and I participated along with a record breaking 200+ others from around the country. This national sheep industry convention, like the others, was packed with important and interesting sessions. Lisa served as Maine's official and voting member of ASI's Board of Directors. She also represented Maine on the state executive meeting and the Lamb Council. Brant, being a member of the ASI Legislative Committee, attended that session.

I presented a report on the webinar series on Marketing Lamb & Mutton to Ethnic Consumers that was a team effort with Maine partnering with Ohio and Maryland. The four-session series was offered in November & December 2013. My report was presented to the Let's Grow Committee and was well received. It was one of three national projects the committee funded in 2013.

I really enjoy attending these conventions as I always come home with ideas for sheep producers. The main theme of this year's convention was the unveiling of a Roadmap for the American Sheep Industry. ASI hired the Hale Group out of Boston to work with a team of sheep industry leaders and representatives to develop this Roadmap. It was evident that the US sheep industry is in trouble with decreasing consumption of American lamb and decreasing numbers of sheep nationally. As a sheep producer, you ought to become familiar with plan.

This link will provide background information: http://www.sheepusa.org/Sheep_Industry_News_Detail/newsID/5996

This link will provide more details <http://www.lambcheckoff.com/american-lamb-industry-roadmap-project/>

If the American Sheep Industry is to succeed and grow, it will take everyone involved on the industry to take an active role. You as a producer will be key to the future of sheep in America.

Sheep Production in Iceland – A Maine-Oriented Viewpoint

By Richard Brzozowski

Background: Last year, the University administration approved my request for a sabbatical leave from my regular job responsibilities. I took 3 months of leave of Phase I of a sabbatical to gain skills and knowledge in sheep production with the purpose of gathering ideas for Maine producers. The Maine Sheep Breeders Association provided funds to offset some of my travel expenses. I am grateful for that support. The first days of my sabbatical leave involved attending a 4-day Sheep Breeders Round Table in Nottingham, England in early November. The remaining time in England was spent on sheep farms. Phase II of my sabbatical leave is planned for next winter (November thru January).

Why Iceland? – I learned from a friend that when flying to Europe, if traveling by Icelandair, you can layover in Iceland for up to 7 days without any additional cost to your ticket. Because Iceland has some similarities to Maine, I made arrangements to learn about sheep production in Iceland. Over a 4-day period, I visited the agricultural university in Hvanneyri, met with two sheep specialists, visited three commercial sheep operations and visited the Icelandic Farmers Association. Here is a short report of my experience.



Two-story sheep barn, holding over 400 sheep.

Most of Iceland's population of 320,000 live in coastal settlements of this island country. Much of the interior of the island is covered with glaciers. However, some of the inland region is suitable for pasture in the summer months.

Because the climate is similar in all parts of Iceland, raising sheep is followed under one model. There is only one breed of sheep raised – the Icelandic sheep breed. All sheep are pastured from May through late October. The flocks are brought back to the farm by mid-November and shorn. Through the winter months, sheep are housed in two-story barns with slatted floors through which all feces and urine drop. The lower level of the barn is for this

waste. Winter forage is stored outside under cover or inside the barn. Sheep are fed a high quality forage (hay or baled grass silage). From the places I visited, ewes were placed into breeding groups of 20-40 animals in long/narrow pens. Feed bunks are shared between pens and water is provided free choice via small automatic drinking bowls or nipples. There may be up to ten drinking stations per pen distributed down one side of the pen. It is there that jugs are set up for lambing. After shearing, a ram is placed with the pen of ewes. High quality forage is fed throughout the winter months (November through May). The systems I saw fed large round bales. The bales were moved with a small articulated tractor and by grappling hook on a rail or by a specially designed cart. All ewes lamb in May and are shorn before returning to pasture. Because the ewes have been inside, this harvest of wool is not as of high quality as the November shearing. Near the end of the grazing season (September and October), all lambs are weaned from their moms. Live lambs are marketed at about 90 pounds (40 kilos).

Ewes are brought back to the barns for winter in late October and November depending on feed availability and weather.



Inside the barn - slatted floor.



Inside the barn - note tracks where small trolley rolls to distribute forage.

Important points:

- Day length is an advantage in Iceland during the summer months as there is only a few hours of darkness each day. This amount of light influences grass growth. The forage fields I saw were fairly flat and graded toward drainage ditches. When I was there in November, the sun rose at about 10:00 in the morning and set at about 4:00 pm.
- The Icelandic farmers and researchers have done extensive research on artificial insemination. They use AI as an efficient way to improve the genetics of their flocks by using selected rams and traits.
- The primary focus of the Icelandic sheep industry is meat quality.
- Because every sheep farmer is on the same schedule, all lambs are marketed over a 10-week window in the fall. Many of these lambs are exported to other countries such as the US. FYI – Iceland imports lamb by ship to Portland, Maine for sales through Whole Foods during this marketing window.

continued on p. 5

Sheep Production in Iceland - continued from p. 4

- Iceland is applying to become a member of the European Union. However, with membership comes opening up their borders to imports of live animals. Because Iceland is an island nation and separated by hundreds of miles from most other nations, they have very few diseases in their sheep, cattle or horses. Becoming a EU member could be very disruptive to the livestock and farmers of Iceland.
- The quality of their stored forages for winter feed was very impressive. Both hays and silages that I saw (and smelled) were of high feed value. From what I saw, I don't think they feed much grain for two reasons – not much grain is produced on the island and grain is relatively expensive.

Other points:

- I was impressed with the cleanliness of the facilities, the consistency of the sheep (size and condition).
- Icelandic people prefer fish, lamb and horse meat for their protein sources.
- I learned about “leader” sheep. Sheep that were not raise for meat, but for their intelligence in leading the rest of the flock out of danger and to better grazing. These leader sheep have been traditionally prized by Icelandic shepherds.



Icelandic hay fields in mid-November.

Go to this link to learn more about Icelandic lamb <http://www.icelandlamb.is/iceland-lamb/>

*Richard Brzozowski
Small Ruminant Specialist
University of Maine Cooperative Extension*

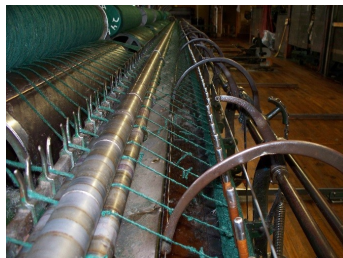


BARTLETTYARNS, INC.

Bartlettyarns History - Sitting along the Higgins Stream in Harmony, ME is a vintage mill building that holds the last remaining working spinning mule in the United States. Started in 1821, Bartlettyarns, Inc. was founded by Ozias Bartlett and continues today with the Rice family. The original spinners were first powered by an undershot water wheel and then converted to electricity. Great-grandson Harry Bartlett took over management of the mill at age 16 in 1902 and operated the mill until 1947 when the first owners outside of the Bartlett family took it over.

Bartlettyarns has many custom processing options, including the outright purchase of wool, traditional custom wool processing, specialty custom wool processing and even exchange. We also process llama, alpaca, angora and other exotic fibers.

We cordially invite the Maine Sheep Breeders Association to visit Bartlettyarns on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 10:30 am for a complete tour of this historic Maine business. Should you wish to bring fiber to our mill on this day it can be arranged after the tour. We are located at 20 Water St in Harmony, ME.



Know Your Enemy! Control *Haemonchus contortus* By Manipulating Its Winter Ecology

By Jim Weber

Many sheep producers in northern New England have lost animals due to internal parasitism. Arguably the most damaging of these parasites is *Haemonchus contortus*, the Barber Pole worm. *Haemonchus* makes a living by feeding on blood within the sheep's fourth stomach. It matures quickly, and then lays thousands of eggs each day, leading to rapid contamination of pastures with infective larvae. The rainy 2013 grazing season in Maine created ideal conditions for multiplication of *Haemonchus* on pastures. Our sheep and lambs suffered from high rates of anemia and death, and our producers struggled to control these parasites with dewormers that are becoming less and less effective.

Haemonchus has historically been categorized as a parasite of the southern United States, not New England. With increased interstate movement of brood stock during the last few decades, *Haemonchus* has become an entrenched parasite of New England sheep, despite its inability to survive on pastures through our prolonged winters. *Haemonchus* has adapted to life in northern latitudes by changing the strategy it uses to survive from one grazing season to the next. While sheep grazing southern pastures continuously re-infect themselves throughout the year with *Haemonchus* due to year-long exposure to larval stages on pastures, larvae in the North are stimulated by decreasing photoperiod to enter a "winter hypobiosis" or hibernation within the sheep's gut until the next spring. This strategy has allowed *Haemonchus* to survive from one grazing season to the next in a warm, hospitable host despite the winter kill of virtually 100% of its eggs and larvae on northern pastures.

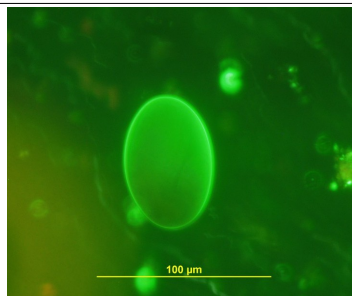
Thanks to the Internet, a variety of resources are now available that teach parasite management strategies to sheep producers. This information is based on research completed in regions with mild winters where producers have been dealing with *Haemonchus* for decades. How applicable are these southern management strategies to New England producers? FAMACHA and fecal egg counts are universally applicable tools that reduce the development of dewormer resistance and help us identify at-risk animals, and should be used by all sheep producers. However, current *Haemonchus* control programs do not take advantage of northern winter kill, even though the seasonal patterns of pasture contamination are very different in Georgia versus Maine. For example, most of us concentrate our deworming on anemic animals during the grazing season, and then pay little attention to *Haemonchus* during the non-grazing season. This may be a missed opportunity.



This is a freshly laid egg of *Haemonchus*. It is comprised of a weather resistant outer shell surrounding a ball of embryonic cells. This egg is less than one-tenth of a millimeter in diameter.

While sheep producers in southern regions of the U.S. must deal with *Haemonchus* populations that can produce new larvae virtually all year, producers in northern latitudes experience a much shorter season (one to two generations from late May through July) where *Haemonchus* can increase exponentially in number on pasture. This difference is due partially to our cooler temperatures, but primarily because *Haemonchus* switches from egg-laying to the production of hypobiotic larvae after early summer. Similarly, northern sheep do not re-infect themselves with *Haemonchus* during the six months of the year when grazing is not possible, and all of the surviving *Haemonchus* individuals overwintering on a farm are located in one easily accessible area – the sheep stomach! Contrast this with the plight of sheep producers in a state like Georgia, where pastures are a PERMANENT reservoir of *Haemonchus* that can't be effectively controlled.

This is another *Haemonchus* ova that has been identified to species through lectin staining. *Haemonchus* can be differentiated from other abomasal worms through this test. The green is a fluorescent stain that is attached to the *Haemonchus*-specific lectin. This test can now be completed at the University of Maine.



Maine's cold, prolonged winters, by interrupting the egg-laying process and reducing pasture contamination, can be used as a tool to control the spread of *Haemonchus*, especially if producers manage pastures to minimize egg contamination early in the season. Maine producers should take advantage of the fact that they are fighting a parasite at the northern limit of its range. In our climate, strategies that incrementally decrease *Haemonchus*' success early in the grazing season will substantially reduce subsequent losses

and treatment of sick animals. Successful implementation of these strategies can be based on:

- 1) understanding how *Haemonchus* survives through a year in Maine.
- 2) taking advantage of "weak links" in its life cycle.
- 3) intervening at critical points to reduce *Haemonchus* contamination of pastures.

continued on p. 7

Control Haemonchus contortus - continued from p. 6

A Year in the Life...

Let's start by reviewing the life cycle of *Haemonchus*. Infected sheep drop *Haemonchus* eggs on pasture, on roads and alleyways, on dry lots, on bedded packs in barns, and in water buckets and feed troughs! If the environment is moist and the average daily temperature exceeds 55 degrees F, the eggs will develop in stages to a long lived "infective larvae" in ten days to three weeks. Infective larvae can persist on pastures for weeks to months under optimal conditions. Infective larvae that are eaten by sheep will develop to adults in an additional ten days. *Haemonchus* adults will then feed on blood within the lining of the fourth stomach and lay eggs for about 4 to 6 weeks before dying.

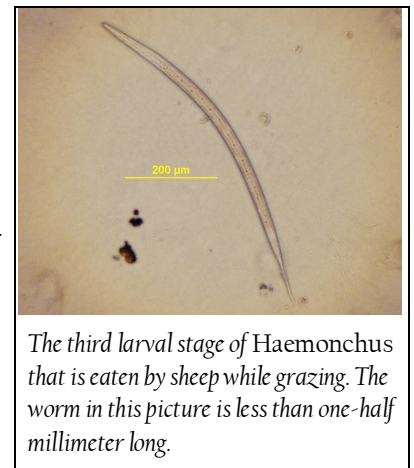
After the summer solstice in northern latitudes, *Haemonchus* larvae are stimulated by rapidly decreasing day length to arrest in development before they become adults. Arrested larvae burrow into the wall of the fourth stomach and hibernate until spring, a process called hypobiosis. While these arrested larvae are curled up in a nice warm sheep, virtually 100% of eggs and larvae remaining on pastures from the previous grazing season are killed by the cold of an extended Maine winter. Another cycle of egg laying begins when cues related to lambing and increasing spring photoperiod stimulate the maturation of hibernating larvae into adults, an event called "Spring Rise."

What happens to these early spring eggs? Many of the eggs laid during the spring probably survive "mud season" but do not actually develop into infective larvae until the first extended warm spell in late May or early June. At that time, all the surviving eggs from the previous weeks to months are stimulated to mature to infective larvae. This spells disaster for sheep and lambs grazing on these heavily contaminated pastures, as huge numbers of larvae synchronously develop to blood-feeding adults. If the environment at the base of the grass blades remains moist during early summer due to frequent rains, cool weather and a thick grass cover, this first generation of larvae and their offspring could continue to re-infect grazing sheep through much of the remaining grazing season. Once infective larvae reach a dangerous level on summer pastures, producers are forced to follow a cycle of deworming, reinfection and retreatment until the grazing season ends.

Bigger Bang for the Buck...

The ideal in veterinary care of animals is the prevention of disease. While producers often treat with dewormers to reduce the loss of parasitized sheep, most would prefer a situation where deworming was not needed because the sheep were not exposed to *Haemonchus* in the first place.. In the case of grazing sheep and *Haemonchus*, successful management means keeping parasite exposure low enough to cause insignificant decreases in animal productivity. Producers can reduce exposure of their sheep to *Haemonchus* by recognizing two key opportunities that are related to *Haemonchus*' adaptation to cold winters:

- By mid-winter, virtually all of the *Haemonchus* on a farm are in the form of hypobiotic larvae in the sheep gut, so winter is the only opportunity all year for producers to treat all of the *Haemonchus* individuals on a farm. Use of effective wormers at this time will drastically reduce the number of parasites that survive to infect pastures during the next grazing season;
- Spring Rise, when overwintering larvae synchronously mature into adults, begins a race between *Haemonchus*' brief egg-laying period and the start of the grazing season. If this first generation of adults dies of old age before they have an opportunity to infect pastures that will be grazed all summer, widespread contamination will be delayed and parasitism will be less severe during the rest of that grazing season. Remember that *Haemonchus* shifts from egg production to larval hypobiosis after the summer solstice, so its window of opportunity for contaminating pasture is actually limited to a few months. Once hypobiosis starts, parasite management is limited to controlling the exposure of sheep to a dwindling supply of surviving larvae.



The third larval stage of Haemonchus that is eaten by sheep while grazing. The worm in this picture is less than one-half millimeter long.

Four Interventions...

Following are a number of actions that are likely to reduce the severity of *Haemonchus* parasitism on your farm. Some producers may not be able to implement all of these suggestions because of conflicts with maintaining an organic certification, complying with laws regulating drug use in food-producing animals, timing lambing for a particular ethnic market, or simply because of physical limitations in the layout of their barns, paddocks and fields. I urge you to consider these management changes by weighing the cost against the potential benefit of each recommendation on your own farm.

1. Deworm sheep during the winter to kill hypobiotic larvae. This action is easier said than done, because not all chemical classes of dewormers are effective on hypobiotic larvae, and parasites on your farm, including hypobiotic larvae, may have already developed resistance to one or more of them. Some parasite experts are now recommending sequential dewormings with two different chemical classes of drugs. Ideally, work with your veterinarian to identify treatment protocols that will work on your farm, and that are safe for your sheep.

continued on p. 8

Control Haemonchus contortus - continued from p. 7

2. Provide an alternative to using good pastures as loafing areas during mud season. This may be as simple as identifying and fencing in a patch of open woods, or using a pasture that will be hayed once the grass starts growing. Be careful about micro-environments such as manure piles, runways and dry lots that may be heavily contaminated with *Haemonchus* eggs. If any grass grows in these “hot spots”, even if just around the fence lines, grazing sheep may receive extremely high doses of infective larvae. Spreading gravel or herbicides on these patches will decrease the odds that sheep will become infected.
3. Consider lambing earlier. Since Spring Rise is stimulated by changes associated with birth, moving lambing back to February will stimulate the development of *Haemonchus* adults that are less likely to survive the longer interval until grazing season - remember that this first *Haemonchus* generation will not be replaced by its offspring until the weather becomes warm enough to hatch its eggs in early June. Early lambing also shifts egg-laying back in time, resulting in a higher proportion of *Haemonchus* eggs being killed by late winter cold snaps. Lambs born earlier in the spring can be weaned and separated from their dams, then placed on “clean” pastures that have not yet been grazed and contaminated by adults. In contrast, late spring lambs may still need to be nursing their dams during pasture season, leading to increased transfer of *Haemonchus* from ewes to their lambs.
4. Rotate fields often, then rest them. Excellent pasture management will decrease the numbers of infective larvae on a piece of pasture that survive from one grazing session to the next. While we can't control environmental factors such as summer temperature or rainfall that might increase larval survival on pastures, we can let pastures rest long enough to dramatically decrease the number of infective larvae on them when sheep are returned for another grazing session. Allowing sufficient rest periods is much easier when pasture available is more than adequate to feed all of our sheep! Many sheep producers in Maine graze their sheep at densities that are too high to allow effective rotational management. If that is your situation, consider feeding stored forage to your sheep rather than returning them to pastures that have not had time to regrow or decrease the levels of infective larvae.

Conclusion

Even with excellent winter management for *Haemonchus*, some parasitism will probably still occur each grazing season. Frequent monitoring of your sheep for parasitism will prevent “surprise” outbreaks from happening, and will allow you to selectively deworm before you lose any animals. If you have limited funds to do diagnostics, concentrate your monitoring on lambs during the first few months of the grazing season when *Haemonchus* populations can quickly get out of control. Fecal egg counts, FAMACHA scores and dewormer treatments can be used to identify and select individual sheep that don't seem to get sick in the face of a *Haemonchus* outbreak. Since parasite resistance seems to have a genetic component, these animals should be preserved as breeding stock in your flock.

Although we can improve our parasite management by understanding how *Haemonchus* has adapted to northern climates, many questions about its winter ecology remain unanswered. Our group at the University of Maine is interested in learning more about how to control *Haemonchus*, and we plan to contact local producers to participate in field studies of *Haemonchus* management in 2014 and 2015, if we can find funding.

Dr. Jim Weber
Associate Professor and Institutional Veterinarian
School of Food and Agriculture
University of Maine

As a paid member of MSBA you receive this newsletter four times per year. Please make sure we have your correct email address/ mailing address on file. 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. Your MSBA membership automatically makes you a member of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), and you receive their monthly newsletter ‘Sheepnews’.

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 events and educational programs. Everyone has something to contribute. Please contact Donna Flint or Richard Brzozowski and volunteer a few hours for the good of all.

Maine Sheep Breeders' Association - by sheep people for sheep people.



facebook

Join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/331285921205/>

Fiber Processing - A Series

By Pogo Pogorelc

So - you want to have some of your fiber processed....
You need to start with answers to the questions below:

Is this for your use or to sell?

If for your use - do you felt, spin, knit or crochet?

If for sale - do you have an outlet for roving, yarn, or batts at your regular farm sale venues (friends, farm stand, farmers' market, wholesale accounts) or do you hope to enter into the world of fiber shows/areas of fairs & festivals?

Your answers to these two questions are important. It will help guide you in the direction of finding an appropriate fiber processor, the volume you might have processed, and the costs you will incur.

Once you decide to put your raw farm product (fiber) into the value-added process there are costs before realizing any benefit or profit (useable or saleable goods). It is similar to selling cuts of meat - you need to pay the slaughter house bills before you have anything to sell versus selling live lambs.



Washing



Drying



Carding

Now, you have decided to have some fiber processed for your own/family use or small amounts to add to your current farm offerings (on-farm or farmer's markets), or you're going for it and want your own farm yarn line.

Next time - we'll look at all of the processing variables - volume, output (yarn, roving, batts), costs, turnaround time, and fleece preparation, and appropriate processors for your end products.

Pogo Pogorelc,
Friends' Folly Farm, Monmouth

Obituary Dean W. Hayward



Dean W. Hayward Sr. of North Yarmouth, Maine was born on August 13th, 1958 to James and Dorothy Hayward. He passed away on January 31, 2014 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He graduated from Greely High School in 1976 and attended SMVTI with a degree in the Culinary Arts. He married the love of his life, Donna Hayward on February 19, 1977. Dean was active in 4-H as a youth. As an adult, he served as a 4-H leader and introduced each of his children to 4-H and his passion for livestock. He served a term as President of the Maine Sheep Breeders Association, and was an active member of the American Southdown Breeders Association. He was currently serving as a board member to the New England Sheep & Wool Growers' Association. Dean enjoyed raising his flock of registered show sheep, and exhibiting them at local, regional and national shows along side his children and grandchildren. He also enjoyed traveling, family dinners, spending time at his camp in Otisfield, working on his family's farm and camping with friends and family. He retired from the Cumberland/North Yarmouth School Department in 2012. He is survived by his wife of almost 37 years, Donna; his parents James and Dorothy; Brothers James and Andrew Hayward; sons Dean and Dustin Hayward; daughters Darcie and Dana Hayward; and grandchildren Drew, Patricia, Jace, Kaylee Hayward and Brooklyn Gould.

Calendar of Events and MSBA Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings 2014

March 12: Maine Agriculture Day at the Legislature, Augusta. For more information, please contact Nancy Webster at woolweb@aol.com or Donna Flint at donna.flint@maine.edu



March 15: MGFN Annual Grazing Conference. Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield, ME.

This year's conference feature Forrest Pritchard who is a professional farmer, writer and public speaker. His keynote presentations is titled "The Economics of Grass Based Livestock". Additional presentations will include University of Vermont livestock specialist Joe Emenheiser and Crystal Springs manager Seth Kroek discussing finishing lambs on pasture, and the UVM Champlain Valley crops team who will tell conference attendees about their success and failures with summer annuals, cover crops and interseeding trials. For a complete listing of conference workshops and registration materials, visit the MGFN website at <http://umaine.edu/livestock/mgfn/> For more information contact Richard Kersbergen at Richard.kersbergen@maine.edu

March 18, 7pm: BOD meeting via conference call. The call in number will be made available closer to the meeting.

March 22, 10:30am: Tour of Bartlett Yarns, Inc., 20 Water St, Harmony, ME (see p. 5 for more details)

April 11 - 12, 9am: Blade Shearing School with Kevin Ford, at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, ME. Limit of ten participants. Fee: \$110 per student; includes shearing manual, morning refreshments and lunch each day.

April 13, 9am: Intermediate Shearing School with Gwen Hinman, at Meadowcroft Farm, Washington, ME. Limit of six participants. Fee: \$85 per student; includes shearing manual, morning refreshments and lunch.

April 26, 9am: Beginner Level Sheep Shearing School, at Wolfe Neck Farm, Freeport, ME. Limit of ten participants. Fee: \$40 per student; includes shearing manual and lunch.

For more information on these three shearing schools or to register please visit:

<http://umaine.edu/cumberland/programs/agriculture/sheep-shearing-school/>



April 28: BOD meeting at the Great Wall Buffet, Augusta, ME. Meet and eat at 6pm; business meeting starts at 6:30pm. MSBA members are welcome to attend.

May 16 - 18: Northeast Livestock Exposition (NELE), Windsor Fairgrounds, ME.

More information at www.northeastlivestockexpo.com/

May 5 - 8: ASI Legislative Trip to Washington, DC. The purpose of this annual trip is to bring the message of the sheep industry to the nation's capitol and coordinate updates on wool, lamb, trade, sheep disease and protection programs with the USDA. Visits with federal policymakers regarding legislation and meetings with agriculture and land management agencies about programs that affect the business of sheep producers in this country are being planned. For more information please contact Brant Miller at bsmiller99@gmail.com

June 7 - 8: Maine Fiber Frolic, Windsor Fairgrounds, ME. More information at <http://www.fiberfrolic.com/>



Please check the MSBA website and Facebook page frequently for updates to the calendar www.mainesheepbreeders.com



Dorothy Hayward's introduction into the Maine Shepherd Hall of Fame during the MSBA meeting at the Maine Agriculture Trade Show in Augusta on January 8. MSBA president Lisa Webster presented Dorothy with the award.

Annual Newport Spin In

The Annual Newport Spin In was held February 15th at the Newport Elementary School in Newport, Maine in between storms in the area. This lovely venue had hand spinners, knitters, crocheters, and friends in attendance. There was a fiber swap, door prizes, and lots of fiber to be bought. It is a great place to gather more information about sheep, processing mills, and who has which breed of sheep, etc. A wonderful time was had by all and many folks there traveled long distances to be there. I believe that this is the 24 th year of this gathering but more information can be found at the Maine Spinners registry. The Ewe Spinners did a wonderful job organizing this event which lasted until 2 pm. In the afternoon.....although I did notice that not many people had left by 2:30 pm! Spinning, eating, and visiting was the order of the day which was just wonderful...

Elizabeth Stone
Cock Pheasant Farm, Newport



MSBA Board of Directors (BOD)

Elected, re-elected, or confirmed at the annual MSBA meeting and BOD meeting on November 25, 2013.

President: Lisa Webster, North Star Sheep Farm, Windham, ME; MSBA@me.com

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

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

Treasurer: Richard Brzozowski, Buckminster Farm, New Gloucester, ME; richard.brzozowski@maine.edu
Cindy Green, Houlton, ME; cindygreen98@gmail.com

Dorothee Grimm, Scarborough, ME; dorothee.grimm@web.de (appointed editor of The Producer)

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

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

Nancy Webster, Woolweb Farm, Brooks, ME; woolweb@aol.com

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

Cindy Kilgore, ME; Cindy.Kilgore@maine.gov (Maine Dept of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry; non-voting)

Maine Sheep Breeders Association

2014 Membership Application

Name _____ **Farm Name** _____

Mailing Address _____ **City, State, Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Website** _____ **E-mail** _____

Breeds of Sheep _____

MSBA Membership Year is January 1 - December 31

2014 Membership Dues \$20 per Year/per Farm, Payable by January 31, 2014



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



Washable sheep pelt
Friends Folly Farm, Monmouth, ME