



The Producer

Maine Sheep Breeders Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2015

Message from the MSBA President

Members,

I hope all is well on your farms and with your families this winter. Cold and snow came early in November and continues to envelope us in cold, white beauty. Some of you are welcoming new lambs during the winter months and others wait for the spring weather to lamb. Neither schedule is "right or wrong" but just personal choice based on your needs and when you have the most time to care for the flocks newest members.

Speaking of members have you sent in your 2015 membership so that you can continue to receive all the great benefits of the Maine Sheep Breeders Association? We are a diverse group of sheep and fiber lovers with many exciting opportunities throughout the year for our members. A complete listing of the 2015 events can be found on our website

www.mainesheepbreeders.com



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

Dear Sheep Breeders,

This issue contains a wide variety of articles. I hope there is something new and interesting for everyone. An introduction to the KVCC Farm and its sheep flock (p. 2-3). Building community at a sheep farm (p. 3). Information about guard dogs and guard donkeys from the talks at the MSBA meeting during the Ag Trade Show in Augusta in January (p. 4, 5). Report from the newly formed Northern Maine Sheep Producers (p. 4). Guidelines on how to set up for sheep foot inspection and trimming (p. 7-9).

There will be a farm tour followed by a Board of Directors meeting on May 30. I hope to meet many of you there (calendar, p. 6).

I encourage you to contact me with your ideas and articles for publication in this newsletter, pictures of your farm or animals or products you'd like to share with other sheep breeders, as well as your feedback, comments, questions, and suggestions.

Happy Spring!



Dorothee Grimm, editor

The Farm at Kennebec Valley Community College

By Abigail Smith

My name is Abigail, I am a student at the Kennebec Valley Community College and I work as a Livestock Care Technician at the KVCC Farm. The farm is now starting its second year with animals and is home to five Katahdin ewes, two large black cross sows and twenty laying hens. The farm also has a large organic certified vegetable production operation that in its first year produced approximately 6,800 pounds of produce, ranging from several varieties of squash and garlic to leeks and radishes.



The college has created a Center for Farm-to-Table Innovation through a grant funded by the Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration which supports an Associate's Degree in Sustainable Agriculture and an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts. The culinary program has been able to use pork and eggs from our farm, and roughly 400 pounds of vegetables from our fields to date. Surplus produce has been donated to local food pantries via Mainer's Feeding Mainers, a program of the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

The college decided on Katahdins for their cold hardiness, good mothering ability and parasite resistance, and their foraging ability. The farm has several acres of fields that need improvements; there is a massive amount of goldenrod. The sheep will be used to help reclaim some of these fields.

The Katahdins were bought from Crystal Spring Farm's sheep breeding program, co-owned by Dr. Tom Settlemyre and Seth Kroeck. Students and staff have really enjoyed working with Dr. Settlemyre. Julie Kosch, a sustainable agriculture instructor says this about Dr. Settlemyre and his work, "He (Tom) has worked for many years to improve the genetics in his own flock and to produce animals that tend to be parasite resistant. He is a great resource for our students who want to work with sheep and he is willing to share his expertise."

As for future plans the school hopes to grow the flock. Throughout the year and during lambing the ewes will be evaluated for some key features: parasite resistance, people friendliness, mothering ability, and ease of lambing. "Healthy ewe lambs that show excellent potential as breed stock will stay in the flock. All others will be raised as market animals for the KVCC culinary arts program," Julie Kosch explains.

Recently the sheep were bred with a ram from Crystal Spring Farm; we will be expecting the first lambs in May. Students get to work with all the animals at the farm during the labs and summer internship program. During breeding the students got to see the Flehmen response. Belinda Green, a student in the program, said, "It was interesting watching the ram interacting with the ewes."

The sheep were out on pasture all summer long, and were trained to a whistle and to follow a person with a bucket of grain so they could be brought in for the students. Students get to practice safe, low stress handling practices, trim hooves, watch vaccinations and micro-chipping. Now the sheep enjoy their days in the newly renovated hay barn and winter turn out area. They get free choice haylage that was harvested from the school's hay fields by a local farmer.

The sheep have been an amazing experience for the students. Many of the students have expressed how much fun they have had with the sheep. Some have expressed interest in wanting to learn more about them and possibly owning them in the future.



Students stop by the farm and spend time with the sheep, giving them little grain treats and petting them, getting the sheep used to people. Mallonee Laslie said, "It's interesting to learn their behaviors and pecking order." The sheep have become really people friendly, approaching and following people freely.

Students also get to experience the importance of having a good relationship with a veterinarian and being ready for an emergency. For example, shortly after school started, one of the sheep started to lose coordination in its back legs. It quickly got worse; the vet came up several times as we tried to figure out the cause. Then another sheep started to show hind leg incoordination.

We thought that it could be Meningeal Worm, or Brain Worm. The sheep were wormed immediately, but sadly we had to humanely euthanize the first sheep that showed symptoms. The body was sent for a necropsy and Dr. Anne Lichtenwalner at the University of Maine was able to find the Meningeal Worm. The second sheep that showed symptoms responded quickly to treatment; she still shows some mild effects in her gate, which is almost unnoticeable to the untrained eye. Due to her rough year, and slight walking problem, we decided not to breed her this year.



Continued on p. 3

The Sheep at KVCC Farm - continued from p. 2



Students and staff have expressed enjoyment in experiencing the growing bond between the sheep at KVCC and themselves. One of Julie Kosch's most memorable moments was, "watching Abby call them off the pasture for the last time in the fall. They all came running and followed her into the newly renovated barn just like they were supposed to do! Abby definitely has a way with those ewe lambs. They trusted her and didn't even hesitate!"

We welcome visitors to the farm. Call ahead so we're sure to have someone available to show you around. You can also follow all our fun activities on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/kvccfarm>.

*Abigail Smith
KVCC Farm
Fairfield, ME*

Comings and Goings at A Wrinkle In Thyme Farm

By Renée Igo

You might assume we're all snowed in and hunkered down here on the farm, but we've staved off winter isolation by creating an influx of visitors to the farm and taking the farm on the road this winter.

We recently hosted a birthday party at the farm for a group of young girls. They enjoyed playing in the barn with the animals and standing in the snowbank to crank the ice cream maker. They also needle felted indoors and took home their creations.



Our annual winter Yarn and Yoga retreat brought both new and familiar faces to the farm. Although most of the yoga took place on the heated floor in our fiber processing building, participants also ventured out to the pasture on snowshoes to do some cold yoga and into the barn to visit the sheep.

We're also preparing for Maine Maple Sunday, which takes place on March 22, 2015. Whether or not the maple trees are ready, we'll have a pancake breakfast both Saturday and Sunday, tours of our sugar house, and lambs to cuddle in the barn. In the past, the lure of pancakes and sap coffee and tea have brought hundreds of visitors to the farm, including some who decide to shop in our yarn store or adopt a lamb.

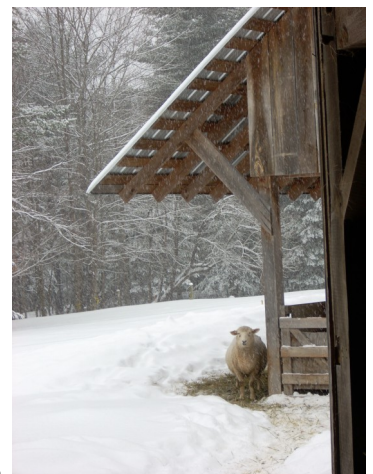
Our 'Adopt a Lamb' program allows people to be engaged in the raising of sheep, though it may not be yet feasible on their own property. By visiting and helping out on the farm throughout the lamb's first year of life, they learn about the care of sheep, and at first shearing, they get the lamb's fleece.

In order to reach out to those who haven't yet come to the farm, we've been taking Elsa the lamb on the road this winter. With the help of a dog kennel, she recently visited a local after school program. Under the spell of Elsa, students sat still in order to hold her and learn about her. Sometimes animals are the best teachers.

Elsa also traveled in the company of a few chickens to an adult education class about beginning farming. Her small voice melted hearts, and she spurred many useful conversations about the advantages and realities of raising animals.

Building community here on the farm and exposing a wide variety of people to sustainable farming are goals at A Wrinkle In Thyme Farm in every season, and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events this winter. For more information on the happenings at the farm, find us online at www.awrinkleinthymefarm.com or search us on Facebook.

*Renée Igo
A Wrinkle In Thyme Farm
Sumner, Maine*



The Pros and Cons of Guard Dogs

By Joan Rolfe, as told to Dorothee Grimm

Joan Rolfe in Pownal has had sheep for over 40 years. She currently raises Suffolk, Oxford, and Coopworth sheep on about six acres. She had no animals guarding her flock for over 20 years. In the early 1990s however, coyotes started to cause problems, and she lost six sheep to them. Joan adopted a three year old Great Pyrenees dog from a local kennel. The dog had not been raised with sheep and had no guarding experience. He instinctively started to protect the sheep, but had to be taught not to play with them.

More recently, Joan adopted a Maremma dog who was raised with sheep. This dog also protects the sheep, but he is more aggressive with them.

Joan has had several livestock guardian dogs over the years. The only problem has been that her dogs sometimes get out through holes in the fence, but so far they have always come back. Keeping fences mended is important for that reason too. Joan does not use electric fences.

Since bringing guard dogs to her farm, Joan has had no problems with predators. While other people in the area still have raccoons, skunks and hawks get into their chickens, they are not around on Joan's farm any longer.

Joan cautions against the use of guard dogs for people who have close by neighbors, because the dogs bark - always for a reason, but their noise might be annoying for others.

*Joan Rolfe
Pownal, Maine*

Northern Maine Sheep Producers

By Cindy Green

Our group is called the Northern Maine Sheep Producers. Kris DeLong and I are tag teaming this group. Kris came up with the idea of forming this group, seeing a need for knowledge, communication, and becoming organized as a sheep producers' group here in northern Maine. We formed this group to exchange knowledge, tips and ideas to each other.

Seven people attended our last meeting. At that meeting we decided to call ourselves the Northern Maine Sheep Producers. Four of us raise sheep for meat and breeding stock, one raises them for wool, and the rest for both.

Linda Trickey went over the surveys from Cooperative Extension. Some of us did not get the survey initially, so we took a round robin approach and just asked what was important to each of us from the survey. Most votes went for the importance of flock health. This was followed by marketing, healthy soil, farm record keeping, pasture and forage, manure handling and soil conservation practice, and finally predator control.

A new attendee, Pam Sweetser from Mapleton, informed us of Aroostook Fiber Works, owned by Andy and Roxanne Tardie of Ashland. Pam has some wool breeds and is a wool spinner. The fiber mill's contact information is: Aroostook Fiber Works, Ashland, ME. Phone 207-540-4945. <https://www.facebook.com/aroostookfiberworks>

Jon Benson talked to us about the Wiltshire Horn Sheep, the breed of sheep he keeps.

We set up the next three meeting dates. A vet is scheduled to come to our next meeting in March for Q and A on sheep health. At the next meeting, we will also discuss dues, schedule, and formally structuring ourselves.

Our next meetings are scheduled for March 26 and April 30. We look forward to meeting anybody new that would like to join us.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cindy at Greenanchorfarm@gmail.com or Kris at bootfootkatahdinfarm@gmail.com

*Cindy Green
Green Anchor Farm
Houlton, Maine*



Do you want to know how to grow great berries? Learn how to shear sheep? Raise poultry on pasture? Preserve your food? Safely operate a farm tractor?

Go to <http://umaine.edu/cumberland/at-a-glance/> for these and other classes in Cumberland County.

Protecting Our flock of Sheep with Guard Donkeys

By Michaela Davis

What do you use to protect your flock from predators out to pasture? A dog? A llama? Ever thought of using a guard donkey?



Several guard donkeys can be found throughout our pastures protecting our flock of over 2,000 sheep. There are many advantages to using donkeys as guard animals. Not only are they able to provide 24 hour protection to our flock, they are in-expensive and easy to maintain and have very similar requirements for feed, water and shelter as our sheep. They will be very protective of their surroundings. Donkeys have been known to show aggression towards dogs, coyotes and foxes. A guard donkey detects threats by sight and sound. They can be quite aggressive, chasing predators out of the pasture, braying when they feel threatened, and also using their teeth to bite and their hooves to kick predators.

The maximum number of livestock that can be guarded by one donkey is still unknown. Using one donkey is found to be most effective. Using more than one donkey may cause them to wander away from the flock. If more than one donkey is needed to guard a large area or large flock it is

suggested that farmers use a jenny with her un-weaned foal(s). Mature male donkeys whether they are jack or stallion are not effective guard animals as they may attack smaller animals such as lambs. You will also want to be careful of jennies during estrus as they may show this same aggression. In the ideal situation if young donkeys are going to be used to protect the flock, they should be born into the flock with the dam, and the dam should be removed soon after weaning. When you select your guard donkey make sure that it is healthy and doesn't have any defects that will cause the donkey to be less effective. Make sure your donkey is friendly, easy to handle and of "standard" stock. The ideal height at the shoulders for a donkey guarding sheep is 44" – 50". Not all donkeys will be successful at guarding the flock. You may have to try a couple of donkeys before finding one that works for you.

After selecting your donkey you will want to work with it. Make it friendly, train it to walk on a halter and lift its feet for the veterinarian and Ferrier. Your donkey will need several weeks to adjust to the flock. Do not just put them in the pasture with the flock, ease them into it. First allow the donkey to socialize with the flock keeping a common fence in between them. Next you will want to walk your donkey through the pasture allowing the flock and the donkey to smell and touch each other. Before turning the donkey loose with the flock keep them tied up in the shelter with the sheep, feeding and grooming them this way for about a week. By this time, the donkey and the flock will have accepted each other and it is time to let your donkey run free. It is important to feed the donkey with the sheep; this will allow them to feel like a part of the flock. In addition to the feed you will want to provide your donkey with a fortified trace-mineralized salt block to make sure they are getting the proper nutrients. Remember to keep all dogs away from your guard donkey and do not allow farm dogs to become friendly with your donkey.



Hoof care is extremely important to your donkey. Trimming their feet regularly will allow the donkey to be more effective. Because donkeys have such small feet it is important to keep them away from slippery areas so they do not fall and injure themselves. Be sure to keep up with their vaccinations and de-worming as well.

There are a few things that you will want to keep your guard donkey away from such as anabolic agents like Deccox, Rumensin and Bovatec found in feed additives and grains, as they are poisonous to donkeys. Pre-mixed, high energy feeds for sheep and calves are also something that you want to keep your donkey away from as they may cause laminitis.

Michaela Davis
North Star Sheep Farm
Windham, Maine

Calendar of Events and MSBA Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings 2015

March 7: Beginner Level Shearing School, at Wolfe's Neck Farm, Freeport. Stand by list available.

April 17-18 (Friday afternoon and Saturday): Blade Shearing School with Kevin Ford, at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, New Gloucester. Limit of ten participants; stand by list available.

April 26: Intermediate Shearing School with Gwen Hinman, at Meadowcroft Farm, Washington. Limit of six participants; stand by list available.

For more information on these three shearing schools and registration forms please go to:

<http://umaine.edu/cumberland/programs/agriculture/sheep-shearing-school/> or call Lynne at the Extension office 207-781-6099

March 11 (Wednesday), 9am-noon: Ag Day at the Legislature, Augusta. Two volunteers needed to set up and staff the MSBA table. For more information and to participate please contact Lisa Webster at msba@me.com or 207-838-9410

March 14: Shearing & Wool Handling Day at the University of Maine in Orono - free & open to the public. For more information contact Dr. Jim Weber at jaweber@maine.edu

March 21: 11th Annual MFGN Grazing Conference, KVCC, Fairfield.

For more information and to register go to <http://umaine.edu/livestock/mgfn/conference>

March 23-36: ASI Legislative Trip to Washington, DC.

For more information, please contact Brant Miller bsmiller99@gmail.com or Nancy Webster woolweb@aol.com

April 11: Maine Poultry School, at KVCC in Fairfield, Maine. The focus of this day-long school is pastured poultry.

April 21 (Tuesday), 7pm: BOD meeting via conference call. Call in number will be made available prior to the call.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lisa Webster at msba@me.com

Approved meeting minutes will be made available on the MSBA website www.mainesheepbreeders.com

May 9-10: 39th Annual NH Sheep & Wool Festival, and NEAOBA New England Alpaca Fest and the New England Hands On Fleece Show, Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, NH.

More information at <http://www.nhswga.com/index.php/sheep-and-wool-festival>

NORTHEAST



LIVESTOCK EXPO

May 15-17: New England Livestock Exhibition (NELE), Windsor Fairgrounds, Windsor.

For more information visit www.northeastlivestockexpo.com

Friday: Youth Outreach Day. Events around livestock with Cindy Kilgore, Diane Schivera, Donna Flint.

For more information, please contact Donna at donna.flint@maine.edu

May 23-24: 41st Annual Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair, Cummington Fairgrounds, Cummington, MA.

For more information visit www.masheepwool.org

May 30, 10am-2pm: Farm Tour with focus on sheep feed and guard animals at Collyerbrook Farm in Gloucester. Followed by a potluck lunch and BOD meeting.

June 6-7: Maine Fiber Frolic, Windsor Fairgrounds, Windsor.

More information at <http://www.fiberfrolic.com/>

Saturday, 8am-12pm: MSBA Wool Pool. Only dry, skirted wool from 2015's wool clip will be accepted. No moths or mold. White and colored wool must be separated.

Saturday afternoon: FAMACHA training.



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

Setting Up for Sheep Foot Inspection & Trimming

By Dr. Richard Brzozowski, PhD, Small Ruminant Specialist, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Before beginning to assemble all tools and equipment to inspect or trim the feet of sheep, you may want to first consider the benefits of a handling system that can be used for more than hoof trimming.

In order to inspect or trim the feet of sheep, you need to flip each animal for a good view of the hoof. Your set-up to accomplish these tasks depends on the number of animals to be handled. However even for a small number of animals, a handling system makes these tasks easier, more organized, less of a strain on the handler, and likely less stress on the animals.

A handling system can be used for more than hoof trimming, as a large part of the expense for sheep production is in the handling of the animals. Handling animals is essential for making wise management decisions. Some of the tasks in sheep production that require animal handling include:

- Weighing
- Ear tagging
- Vaccinating
- Drenching (deworming)
- Pregnancy testing
- Foot trimming
- Foot bathing
- Sorting
- Weaning
- Inspecting
- Treatment
- FAMACHA® scoring
- Body condition scoring
- Loading

An efficient handling system will pay dividends by saving labor, reducing the risk of injury or strain to handlers, reducing the stress on animals, providing convenience and allowing for more timely management of animals.

In setting up a handling system, consider the specific tasks you might need to accomplish at any time of year. Allow for ample space for gathering, handling, treatment, sorting, and releasing groups and individual animals. In addition, you will likely need to consider

- ample lighting (natural and provided)
- electrical power (for lighting, tilt table or other equipment)
- space for tools, supplies and equipment
- space for personnel (one side or both sides)
- space and a means for keeping records
- possible emergency treatment (first aid readiness for treatment of animals or workers)
- biosecurity measures (sanitizing and disinfecting of area and equipment)
- shade or cover and protection from the elements (sun, rain, wind, etc.)
- restriction or control of animal movement (backward, forward or sideways)

When planning a handling unit, flexibility or the ability to change pen size, direction of animal movement or treatment will likely be needed for ease in adjusting to a specific situation.

Components of an efficient handling system

- Gathering pen with capacity to hold a certain number of animals as well as to squeeze or reduce in size – directing animals to enter the chute
- Panels for chutes and pens (portable panels or sections enhance flexibility)
- Anti-backup device helps with the forward movement of animals.
- Head locking gate could be useful for some tasks such as ear tagging, blood drawing or FAMACHA® scoring.
- Sorting gates allows for ease in separating individual animals.
- Scales allow for monitoring the weights of individual animals.
- Tilt table allows for ease in flipping individual animals
- Foot bathing tub(s) to be placed within the chute
- Cleaning and disinfecting items such as brushes, brooms, shovel scraper, water and pressure washer.

A handling unit is typically laid out in a linear fashion — with animals moving from one grouping point to a desired grouping point.

Continued on p. 8

Setting up for Sheep Foot Inspection & Trimming - continued from p. 7

Setting up for sheep feet inspection, trimming, bathing and sorting involve several components. Following is a list of tools, equipment, items and supplies typically needed for foot-related tasks.

- Trimming tools
 - Foot shears
 - Hoof knife
 - Utility knife (with extra blades)
- Helpful Equipment
 - Tilt table or
 - Sheep cradle/chair
- Foot bathing items
 - Foot bath tub(s)
 - Bucket(s) for mixing (5 gallon)
 - Drill motor with paint mixer attachment
 - Zinc sulfate powder *
 - Measurement container
 - Detergent — to improve penetration of footbath solution
 - Water
 - Junk wool or pine shavings — placed in the foot bath tub to reduce splashing
- Hoof cleaning items
 - Pump/spray bottle filled with zinc sulfate solution (10% or 20%)
 - Small Brush
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Gloves
 - Work gloves
 - Examination gloves (disposable)
 - Safety glasses
 - Dust mask
 - Back support wrap
- First aid items (separate sets for humans and for livestock)
 - Eye wash bottle (filled)
 - Antiseptic wipes
 - Adhesive bandages
 - Blood stopper
 - Bandages or wraps
 - Antibiotic
 - Syringes
 - Needles
 - Thermometer
- Livestock markers (at least 3 different colors)
- Disinfecting supplies
 - Disinfectant
 - Tub or bucket
 - Brushes of varying sizes
- Recording supplies
 - Record sheet(s)
 - Pen(s) or pencil(s)



* Zinc sulfate should be handled with care. Read and follow the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for handling zinc sulfate.

Continued on p. 9

Setting up for Sheep Foot Inspection & Trimming - continued from p. 8

- Extras
 - Electronic scanning & recording device for electronic identification systems (EID)
 - Replacement ear tags
 - Dewormer (anthelmintic) with appropriate drench gun
 - Camera
 - Cell phone
 - FAMACHA® card
 - Nail apron for holding tools or supplies
 - Holster for foot shears or knife
 - Totes for transporting & storing supplies
 - Drinking water for handlers

The Inspection, Trimming, Scoring, Treatment & Sorting Process

1. Gather animals to begin the process. This gathering can be done in a single group or in groups. If possible, start with animals that show no signs of lameness.
2. Move animals in single file down chute to trimming/inspection point
3. Identify and record individual sheep
4. Flip sheep
5. Trim and/or inspect each foot of each sheep
6. Score and record individual feet (clean, uncertain or infected)
7. Mark each animal (clean, uncertain or infected)
8. Move animals to foot bathing point
9. Sort animals (clean, uncertain or infected)
10. Move animals to drying point
11. Release clean animals to pens or a pasture on which no sheep (or goats) have been for at least 2 weeks
12. Isolate uncertain sheep in a group. Do not mix these animals with others until you are certain they show no signs of infection. The feet of these sheep should be inspected weekly, treated weekly with a 10% zinc sulfate* foot bath and possibly given an antibiotic (topical treatment on infected foot or injected).
13. Isolate sheep with one or more infected feet in a separate group – strongly consider culling these sheep. If kept on the farm, these sheep feet should be inspected weekly, treated weekly with a 10% zinc sulfate foot bath and possibly given an antibiotic (topical treatment on infected foot or injected intramuscular).
14. Remove foot bathtubs from the area. Dispose of zinc sulfate solution off the farm or place in manure pile for spreading. Avoid dumping foot bath solution in the same location repeatedly. Sweep and power wash floors on which sheep moved. Power wash and disinfect tubs and tip table. Wash and disinfect all tools and equipment. Launder clothing.
15. Repeat this process weekly for 4 weeks. Always start the process with the non-infected group. Uncertain individual sheep or group follows non-infected group. Infected sheep or group of sheep always goes last.
16. Unless for immediate slaughter, do not sell sheep to others until foot rot is eliminated from your farm.

Final Step — Clean Up and Disinfection

It is important to clean all equipment, tools, totes and clothing following the handling of sheep after foot trimming. Be thorough in washing all items. Use a high-pressure sprayer to blast the tilt table and flooring where foot trimming took place. Sweep or scrape the area and dispose of trimmings and debris before pressure washing. After cleaning, coat the tilt table and dip tools with disinfectant. Allow these items to air dry before coating with a film of penetrating oil or a moisture-replacing spray. Launder all clothing worn by handlers as soon as possible after foot trimming has been completed for the day. Clean all foot wear thoroughly and disinfect.

* Zinc sulfate should be handled with care. Read and follow the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for handling zinc sulfate.

Dr. Richard Brzozowski, PhD

Small Ruminant Specialist

University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Reviewed by Susan Schoenian, Small Ruminant Specialist, University of Maryland

News from Maine Fiberarts

By Carol Jones

Many fiber enthusiasts who love sheep but don't have any of their own, would love to visit a farm during lambing season, or on a shearing day. If you would like to have people come visit and/or help on a certain day, or would like to let readers of our online Bulletin know that you would welcome a visit, why not put up an announcement? There is a short form to fill out, no logging in necessary. Just say how you would like to be contacted, your general location and what you would expect. There are many people who would love to know more about sheep and you might just find your next farmhand! Bulletin items are always being accepted at <http://www.maineiberarts.org/submit-a-bulletin-item>

You can see what kinds of things are already on our bulletin here: <http://www.maineiberarts.org/fiber-bulletin>

Once again Maine Fiberarts is holding sewing classes featuring Barbara Taylor, a most accomplished seamstress of Brunswick. Classes will be held at Maine Fiberarts in Topsham, on Tuesdays, through May 19, 2015, 10 am - 1:30 pm. Each session costs \$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Bring your own sewing machine, tools, etc. Iron and ironing board, community cutting table, and a few 6 foot tables are provided, but call ahead to reserve one. Take one or all of the sessions.

Maine Fiberarts in Topsham is open by chance or appointment only through March 2015. Please call before visiting, 207-721-0678. Our website is always open. Visit all the parts of the "digital tour" www.maineiberartstour.com.

Don't forget, fiber folks can list contact info, website, and a 25-word description free of charge at this direct link: <http://www.maineiberarts.org/touring/maine-fiber-resource-guide/add-new-fiber-resource>. We're happy to help or to list for you. Sign up for our occasional email announcements right on the home page www.maineiberarts.org.



*Carol Jones
Maine Fiberarts
Topsham, ME*

Free Webinar Series for Sheep and Goat Producers

The last webinar in the 2015 Winter Webinar Series, Pasture Management for Small Ruminant Producers, will be held on March 4 at 7pm EST. The webinar will last for approximately 1 hour, followed by a question and answer period. All interaction will be via the chat box.

The topic of the first webinar is Pasture Health Problems. The instructors are Susan Schoenian and Jeff Semler.

To participate, log onto <https://webmeeting.umd.edu/mdsheepgoat>

Enter as a guest. Give a name. After your name, put where you are from, e.g. John Smith Delaware.

Be sure to check your audio (via speakers or a headset) before the webinars are due to start. High speed internet access is recommended.

All webinars will be recorded and also converted to YouTube Videos. Links to recordings, YouTube videos, and PowerPoint presentations (via SlideShare) will be available at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/recordings.html>

*Susan Schoenian
Sheep & Goat Specialist
University of Maryland Extension
sschoen@umd.edu*

MSBA Board of Directors (BOD)

Re-elected or confirmed at the BOD meeting on November 25, 2014.

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)

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.

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

Maine Sheep Breeders Association**2015 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

2015 Membership Dues \$20 per Year/per Farm, Payable by January 31, 2015



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



Kathadin ewe
at KVCC Farm