

#### SUMMER 2016



Dear Sheep Breeders,

We hope everyone of you had a successful lambing season and your animals are out enjoying the green pastures.

The ASI "Let's Grow" initiative recently held a webinar about producer groups, which is archived at this link:

http://www.sheepusa.org/Growourflock\_Resources\_EducationalWebinars. The host, Jay Parsons, mentioned how beneficial it is for individual sheep breeders to visit other producers' farms to see their facilities. One can learn a lot from the grazing and housing, breeding and lambing, and feeding practices on other farms. These visits also offer the opportunity to establish connections with neighbors and peers. Would you be interested if MSBA would offer farm tours, maybe even in connection with our regular board meetings, a few times a year? Would you be willing to open your farm to other sheep breeders to visit?

Following our May meeting, board members have discussed holding a series of meetings throughout the state, reaching out to shepherds, and possibly goat herders, to learn more about your needs and how MSBA can benefit you. In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out to board members to share your ideas for how MSBA can grow and how it can support you. We also welcome your thoughts on how we can draw new members into our association. Find contact information for all board members on page 8 of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Fiber Frolic in Windsor this coming weekend.

## Dorothee Grimm and Leah Hoenen, editors



# Artificial Insemination of Sheep in Iceland – The System Described

By Richard Brzozowski, PhD, and Jim Weber, PhD, DVM

In December 2015, Richard Brzozowski and James Weber of the University of Maine travelled to Iceland for the purpose of making connections with sheep researchers and learning more about the sheep production system in Iceland. Brzozowski and Weber are grateful to the Maine Sheep Breeders Association (MSBA) and the Icelandic Sheep Breeders of North America (ISBONA) for providing funds to partially support their travel to Iceland. The following article is a part of a series based on their experience.

Artificial insemination (AI) of sheep is efficiently and intentionally used to improve the next generation of sheep on farms in Iceland in an effort to promote productivity and profitability. By using only the best rams, AI promotes specific traits such as performance, rate of gain, health and carcass quality.

Iceland's Sheep AI System – There are currently two AI stations in Iceland. One station in located in the south (Selfoss) and one in the western part of the island (Borgarnes). At each station, about 25 rams are kept year round. They are allowed to graze in enclosed pastures during the grazing season but are then housed in group pens for the winter months (November to May). These rams are selected for specific traits as well as their offspring's performance. Rams used for AI are also tested to be free of all sexually transmitted diseases of sheep.

Nearly 90% of Iceland's sheep producers cooperate to send performance data taken from their animals to a central database where it is used to select top rams as well as provide farmers with comparative data on their farm's performance. Data used in the selection of rams are compiled, assessed and presented in a catalog. The ram catalog is published every year. The catalog is divided in two sections (south and west stations). A narrative describ-



Ram semen collection facility Selfoss, Iceland

ing the ram's background, lineage and performance follows a color photo of a side-view for each ram. The data are presented in an easy-to-interpret chart that farmers use to quickly compare rams in making their selection for use on their farm. The annual catalog is divided into sections listing horned and polled rams. Growth and carcass qualities are the basis for evaluating most rams listed in the catalog. In addition, semen from a smaller number of rams are featured for their wool, and semen from at least one leader sheep ram is available from each station. Once a ram qualifies and makes it to an AI station, he never returns to the home farm (or any other farm) for biosecurity reasons. However, he may be transferred to the other breeding station if a demand for his semen exists.

Rams that are outclassed by data and performance of better rams are eliminated from the breeding program. Such a ram would be retired when another ram is shown to be genetically superior based on performance data. Each ram's semen is consistently evaluated before and during the breeding season. Frozen semen straws of some the best rams are kept as insurance or are sold to breeders in North America for frozen semen AI.

A list of the traits as recorded from this website http://icelandicsheep.com/semen.html include:

- 1) Good meat type conformation with a numerical classification system for body depth and width, leg muscle, loin
- and strong feet and legs, etc.
- 2) Eye muscle thickness
- 3) Fleece quality: fineness, thickness, color, uniformity and length
- 4) Progeny from these sires are tested for dressing weight, grade classification of the carcass of their slaughter lamb progeny, and the productivity of daughters and sons kept for breeding

The locations of the AI stations are based on convenience for ease of getting fresh semen to farmers in Iceland. There is a small airport adjacent to each station. However, most semen is transported by vehicle over the road. Farmers place their semen orders via phone or email each day, arranging their order for use on the following day. They specify rams and the number of straws needed from each ram. One straw has enough semen to breed five ewes. Each straw is identified by color and label.

Starting on or near December 1 each year, semen is collected daily from rams for which orders were received. The team at the AI station arrives early in the morning every day for 21 consecutive days. The team comprises five people: a ram handler, a semen collector, a veterinarian, a lab technician and a business person. The handler catches and brings each ram to a raised wooden platform where a ewe is held. The semen collector prepares and cleans the receptacles used to capture fresh semen. While collecting the semen, he verifies the identity of the ram.

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#### Artificial Insemination in Iceland - continued from p.2

The veterinarian is charged with evaluating each semen specimen, assessing volume and color of ejaculate, sperm count and viability. He uses a microscope and various methods for a series of assessments, then dilutes the semen to a uniform concentration



with a nutritive "extender" fluid. The laboratory technician loads and seals the extended semen into straws labeled with each ram's identifying information. The technician then moves straws for proper cool storage before shipping that day. The business person handles all orders received by phone or email and transfers the order sheets to specific team members. All this takes place in a three-room set up.

This is the routine for 21 days straight - starting at about 5:00 am until after 12:00 pm. At this time of year in Iceland, the sun does not rise until about 10:30 am.

Farmers may come to the AI station directly or have the fresh semen shipped to their farms for use that day (or the next). The fresh semen should be used within 48 hours - the sooner, the better. Semen is kept cool and transported in stainless steel thermos containers. Several straws can be transported in one thermos. One straw of semen is valued at about \$6.00 (US).

Veterinarian evaluating ram semen

\_\_\_\_\_ Each farmer intending to purchase and use semen must participate in a special train-

ing on the artificial insemination of sheep. They complete a day-long workshop that explains the system, the science, semen handling and how to inseminate ewes.

In preparation for the semen delivery, each farmer daily selects ewes in heat as the candidates to receive the semen. The farmer watches for ewes showing signs of heat (estrus). Icelandic ewes in heat display rapidly twitching tails and are generally fidgety. Some farmers bring rams into a pen of ewes as a way to determine which ewes are in heat. The ram is controlled by holding him by the horns (by hand or by a short length of rope). Ewes in heat will come to the ram. Those ewes identified as "in heat" are marked and separated into a group pen where the deposit will take place when the semen arrives later that day.

When the semen arrives at the farm, breeding is performed quickly, as pregnancy rates fall during semen storage, even at cool temperatures. Artificial insemination on the farm usually involves two people. One person catches and holds the ewe by the neck or horns and the other person selects the proper straw, prepares the insemination tool, inserts the straw into the tool and deposits the semen. The breeding of a ewe takes less than three minutes - from catching to releasing each ewe. Unlike AI in goats, where the insemination pipette is inserted into or through the cervix using a lighted speculum, fresh semen in sheep is blindly inseminated as far into the vagina as possible.

Approximately 90% of sheep farmers in Iceland utilize artificial insemination in some part of his/her flock. One does not have to be a large flock owner to utilize AI.

The system of artificial insemination of sheep that exists in Iceland is well used and quite efficient. With proper planning, such a system could be duplicated within a geographic region of the US. A fresh AI system would confer several advantages over present breeding strategies. First, genetically superior rams could be used to breed more ewes, and could cover multiple farms within a region. Many small Icelandic breeders now have limited ability to bring new genetics into their flocks, and fresh AI would be especially beneficial to them. The use of fresh AI would also improve animal health and farm biosecurity by decreasing the movement of rams and their diseases among flocks. In Iceland, rams cannot be moved from Scrapie-affected into Scrapie-free provinces, but fresh semen is non-infectious for Scrapie and can be moved among provinces. North American breeders could use fresh AI to decrease the spread of other diseases of concern to the industry.

Dr. Weber at the University of Maine was recently funded to conduct a small fresh AI project that will be completed in Maine during the 2016 breeding season. Several participating farms will work with Dr. Weber to train rams, collect and process semen, detect estrus in ewes, and inseminate ewes on their farm. Ewes on other farms in the region may also be bred from these rams using fresh AI. Our results from this trial will be compiled and reported to ISBONA members during the winter of 2016-2017.

Artificial insemination (AI) of sheep was first documented in Iceland in 1939. Below is a link to an article that further describes its history and use. http://old.eaap.org/Previous\_Annual\_Meetings/2007Dublin/Papers/S14\_3\_Dyrmundsson.pdf

Richard Bzozowski, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Jim Weber, University of Maine School of Food and Agriculture Orono, Maine 04469

## Vaccinations in Sheep

By Dr. Kelsey Hilton, VMD

As many of our readers probably know, sheep can be a very challenging species to treat in disease outbreak situations due to their tendency to avoid demonstrating illness until it is so advanced that they are nearly dead. It has been hypothesized that this is because, as herd animals, an individual sheep tries to avoid predation by appearing as healthy as possible at all times. Also of note is the fact that treating any disease is much more likely to be successful if caught early in the disease process. I have heard many veterinarians shake their heads and lament with frustration that "a sick sheep is a dead sheep!" For all these reasons, one of the most successful ways to 'treat sick sheep' is to prevent them from getting sick in the first place through good husbandry, nutrition and vaccination. Vaccination is a preventative method that can be used in all production settings: conventional, natural or organic production systems.

The most basic core vaccination that is recommended most commonly for sheep is the <u>Clostridium perfringens</u> types <u>C & D</u> (hemorrhagic enteritis and overeating disease) and <u>tetanus</u>, or "<u>CDT</u>". This vaccine is cheap; most are very effective and easy to administer. We typically recommend that it be given at six to eight weeks of age and then a booster four weeks later. Ewes should be vaccinated annually, ideally at about four to six weeks prior to lambing, as this will booster the antibodies that are transferred to the lamb through the colostrum. While giving a CDT vaccine to a lamb less than six weeks old will not hurt the lamb, it also may not provide long lasting protection due to interference with maternal antibodies. To determine dosage, always remember to consult the label on the bottle. Also of note is that CDT can cause a lump or small abscess to form at the location of injection. This usually does not cause a significant problem and can be drained if lumps do occur. To best avoid the formation of these small abscesses, ensure that you use a clean needle for every injection, and that you are giving the injection subcutaneous-ly. I often give this vaccine behind the elbow to avoid confusion with a lymph node, which could be perceived as a possible CL case.

The other core vaccination that we recommend is the <u>rabies</u> vaccine. There are several rabies vaccines labeled for use in sheep, and they are extremely effective. This vaccination must be performed by a veterinarian in the state of Maine. Vaccinating against rabies is protective for the animal but is also performed very commonly for public health reasons. It is not always obvious and easy to recognize sheep that are symptomatic for rabies, partially because they don't usually display the wild "attack" behavior that we commonly associate with dogs, and partially because there are many other diseases that can cause neurologic behavior in sheep. Rabies cannot be diagnosed until after an animal has died, and it always makes me feel better when I am treating a neurologic animal to know that it was vaccinated for rabies and that my risk of exposure is low. Rabies continues to be a disease that is almost 100% fatal in humans and animals if not prevented. This is why many livestock fairs in the state of Maine require rabies vaccination for attendance. Most rabies vaccines are given either annually, or with three year boosters.

Some other types of vaccines do exist for sheep. One that we commonly receive questions about is vaccination for <u>Caseous</u> <u>Lymphadenitis (CL or CLA)</u>. Using this vaccine can be the right choice for some operations, but is not recommended in all cases. CL can cause economic losses in a sheep herd through carcass condemnation due to abscesses that form internally or externally, and because it can cause ewes to become thin and unthrifty, develop respiratory distress and live shorter lifespans. Draining abscesses are extremely infectious. The vaccines currently available against CLA aid in the prevention of infection of sheep by the infectious agent, and can help decrease the effect of the disease on the herd, and therefore offset those economic losses, by reducing the severity of disease. Therefore, in a herd in which the disease is endemic, the vaccine can be an excellent way to manage losses. Unfortunately, no vaccination is 100% effective; most CL vaccines prevent at most 90% of infections. The other drawback of the vaccine is that the current best diagnostic tests for CL cannot differentiate between a vaccinated animal and an infected animal. Due to the fact that a vaccinated animal is not guaranteed to be free of disease and cannot be differentiated from an infected animal, we do not recommend using this vaccine in most flocks. The most effective way to prevent CL in your herd is to test the herd periodically for disease, maintain a closed herd, and test all new animals prior to entry into the herd (including rams entering just for breeding season), and avoid bringing any positive animals into the herd.

Another vaccine that we see used in Maine in some circumstances is the "<u>Soremouth</u>" or <u>contagious ecthyma</u> vaccine. Contagious ecthyma is a zoonotic disease (transmissible to humans) and the vaccine is made from live virus, so care must be taken in its administration to prevent human infection. The disease is also considered a reportable disease, and although it is fairly easily treatable, animals should not move onto or off of a farm with a recent case of soremouth. It spreads easily, and so the vaccine is most commonly used either in farms in which it has been diagnosed, or in barns which take their animals to a lot of shows. Vaccination is not recommended in closed herds that are free of disease, as it will introduce the disease to the premises. It should also be noted that vaccination causes symptoms of the disease; the main goal of vaccination is to have the animal contract, and then recover from the disease at a time which is determined by the producer. Animals that have been vaccinated will develop the disease, recover, and then will have resistance to future infection at shows or elsewhere. Ewes should be vaccinated prior to lambing and annual revaccination is recommended in these herds.

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#### **MSBA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

#### Vaccinations in Sheep - continued from p. 4

<u>Foot rot and foot scald</u> are another couple of diseases that we have vaccines for in sheep. Foot rot can cause considerable economic losses in sheep herds. These vaccines are not completely preventative, but can be used in conjunction with other practices, such as footbaths and regular trimming, and culling, to reduce the incidence of infection in a herd. The vaccines must be readministered every three to six months, usually in preparation for rainy season. Another limitation to this vaccine is that it may not be effective against every strain of bacteria that is causing foot rot in a particular flock.

Other vaccines that are much less commonly used in Maine but are available in sheep include vaccinations against <u>enzootic</u> <u>abortion</u> and <u>vibriosis</u>, <u>bluetongue</u>, and <u>E. coli scours</u>. For E. coli scours, we more commonly recommend giving an oral preventative at birth.

Ultimately, decisions about vaccination are often based on the needs of a particular herd, and that herd's history, and most sheep herds need not be vaccinated with all the vaccines that are available. Many veterinarians provide consultation services to help you determine the best vaccination protocol for your particular situation.

Dr. Kelsey Hilton, VMD Annabessacook Veterinary Clinic 417 Rt 135 Monmouth, Maine 04259 Phone 207-933-2165 Email: annabessacookvet@yahoo.com

## Sheep News

#### Stoneheart Farm in South Paris, Maine

Maine Cooperative Extension created a short documentary as part of a video series called "Growing Maine" to bring people closer to farmers and producers, to better understand how they do what they do.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOig3k\_2rnU&feature=youtu.be

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## EWE Maine Icelandics Club

Five University of Maine students head to three large sheep farms in Iceland during the 2016 lambing season. Follow their lives as they deliver hundreds of lambs and are immersed in Icelandic farm culture.

http://ewemaineicelandlambing.blogspot.com

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## Online FAMACHA© training through University of Rhode Island

We are pleased to offer an online training program for FAMACHA© certification as part of the new Northeast SARE Grant (LNE15-342). Online FAMACHA© certification can be obtained through a 4-step process:

1. View our 2 hour video on Integrated Parasite Control and our 30 minute video, *Why and How To Do FAMCHA® Scoring.* Complete an online post-video summary.

- 2. Practice the Cover, Push, Pull, POP! technique.
- 3. Record and email us a video of your FAMACHA© scoring technique.
- 4. Follow-up by phone and/or email as needed. Live video sessions can be utilized if needed.

Once this certification process is complete, you will be able to purchase a FAMACHA<sup>©</sup> card. Visit our website for detailed instructions, including contacts for more information http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/famacha/

For those producers that are already FAMACHA<sup>©</sup> certified, our online videos serve as an excellent refresher on integrated parasite management as well as the FAMACHA<sup>©</sup> system including hands-on demonstration of the proper scoring technique.

http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/video/

Like us on Facebook (URI Small Ruminant Parasite Control Program) for regular updates on resources and events on small ruminant parasite control. https://www.facebook.com/urisrpc/ \* PRESS RELEASE \* May 27, 2016

#### American Wool Council Unveils New American Wool Logo



DENVER, Colorado - As American consumers embrace the natural magic of homegrown wool, the American Wool Council has adopted a new look that brings the industry's image up to par with the products being created everyday with this innovative, sustainable fiber.

A division of the American Sheep Industry Association, the American Wool Council developed a new logo after months of consultation with the Sterling-Rice Group of Boulder, Colorado. American wool is vigorous enough to support the U.S. military on the frontlines of battle, yet elegant enough to grace red carpets and magazine covers.

From the most comfortable socks imaginable to outdoor apparel capable of standing up to the toughest conditions, modern-day American wool is an all-natural product that can even be worn next to the skin. It was imperative to develop a logo that captured such strength and refinement in one recognizable mark.

"It's vital for the wool industry that consumers recognize the value of American wool," said ASI Director of Wool Marketing Rita Kourlis Samuelson. "When you look at wool and its values, you come back to a natural, premium product that performs at a high level in a variety of circumstances. It can be sophisticated and beautiful, but it can also be innovative and dynamic. American wool is known for its unparalleled loft and versatility. The benefits of wool simply can't be matched by any other natural fiber."

The American wool logo will be featured on product tags, as well as in advertising to the international wool trade community. The logo will also appear in promotions for wool consumers. The American Wool Council will offer two logos, one for products made in America and one for products made elsewhere using American wool. Soon to come is a new consumer-oriented website at AmericanWool.org.

"The American spirit is alive in the fiber, fleece and fabric of natural American Wool," states an international advertisement featuring the new logo. "This is where happy, healthy sheep are raised to thrive in vast, open ranchlands. It's where bold shepherds and ranchers are genuine stewards of the earth - constantly seeking sustainable ways to ensure the future of this invaluable industry. This is America, where innovation is celebrated, tradition is respected and high performance reigns."

ASI is an equal opportunity employer. It is the national trade organization supported by 45 state sheep associations, benefiting the interests of more than 85,000 sheep producers.

American Sheep Industry Association, 9785 Maroon Circle, Ste 360, Englewood, CO 80112

For additional information, contact: Rita Kourlis Samuelson, 303-771-3500, ext. 29 or rita@sheepusa.org Christa Rochford, 303-771-3500, ext. 18 or christa@sheepusa.org

## Call for Pictures!

Clare Thomas-Pino is calling out to all Maine sheep producers to send her information for her sheep presentation at the Common Ground Fair in September: pictures to show the diversity of breeds of sheep, what people are doing with sheep products, pictures of handling of sheep/sheep in barns, lambing, pasture, etc.

Please send your pictures to Clare\_Thomas@umit.maine.edu

## Meet the MSBA Board Members (Part 2)



## Gary Anderson

I am a non-voting member of the MSBA board and serve as liaison with Maine Cooperative Extension. I work at the Cooperative Extension Livestock office in Orono. I don't have any sheep.

My goals for the current year for MSBA are to learn more about the members' operations and needs. I have a goal to increase producers' profit margin on their operations through management changes, improved nutrition plans and improved reproductive efficiency.

## Donna Flint

I live in Sanford with my husband, Dan. We are taking care of my parents' farm in North Berwick where my flock is located. I grew up on a commercial poultry farm and raised Angus cattle until 1980. I got started in sheep when my children were seven or eight years of age. We started with Tunis and eventually got into Natural Colored Lincolns. Due to the 2015 drought in York County, I sold 34 of my sheep, keeping just five. Currently I have two Commercial Ewes and three Natural Colored Lincolns. We did get two Nigerian Dwarf does last fall, mostly as "fun for the grand kids". I am a 4-H Volunteer and use most of my fleeces in felting projects with my club.



For the Maine Sheep Breeders Association I hope to have our

founding members give us input into celebrating our anniversary next year - what do they want to see happen?

## Clare Thomas-Pino

I live with my husband and sun in Dover-Foxcroft at Happynest Farm. We have about 20 sheep, a lovely black East Friesian ram,



and mixed breed ewes, many our of lovely Romney, Coopworth, and Tunis ewes. We love lamb, and sell a few lambs each year to friends who also love lamb. My mother is a fiber artist and likes the wool, and we've sold some at Common Ground in the past, and we eventually would like to make goat cheese on a small scale. Once I have completed my doctorate, our plans are to be an educational farm and also offer 'Care Farming', a form of Animal Assisted Activity and

Therapy (AAAT) (I'll be talking about this a little more at Common Ground Fair). I teach Livestock and Companion Animal Behavior at UMaine and have a background in both animal behavior and psychology.

I would like to see how MSBA can grow and possibly include goat breeders, too, as we have much overlap in terms of meat, fiber, and milk products of our animals, but also many differences in terms of requirements for each species. I feel Maine is a great place to raise small ruminants, and there is a great desire for their products; we just need to work together to be effective.

Our farm does not have a website yet, but you can contact me at happynestfarmL3C@gmail.com

To be continued in the fall issue



## MSBA Board of Directors (BOD)

Elected, re-elected, nominated at the BOD meeting on November 24, 2015. Vice Presidents: Brant Miller, Bowdoinham, ME; bsmiller99@gmail.com Cindy Green, Houlton, ME; cindygreen98@gmail.com Secretary: Donna Flint, Oak Ridge Farm, Sanford, ME; donna.flint@maine.edu Treasurer: Sally Farrell, Buxton, ME; sarah.s.farrell@maine.edu Dorothee Grimm, Scarborough, ME; dorothee.grimm@web.de (appointed co-editor of The Producer) Leah Hoenen, Windham, ME; leah.hoenen@gmail.com (appointed co-editor of The Producer) Joe Miller, Rivercroft Farm, Starks, ME; rivercroft99@yahoo.com Diane Schivera, Appleton, ME; dianes@mofga.org Clare Thomas-Pino, Happynest Farm, Dover-Foxcroft, ME; clare\_thomas@umit.maine.edu Lisa Webster, North Star Sheep Farm, Windham, ME; Lisa@northstarsheepfarm.com Gary Anderson, Orono, ME; garya@maine.edu (Maine Cooperative Extension; non-voting) 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 six to eight 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 and volunteer a few hours for the good of all.

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

	Maine Sheep Breeders Association	on 2016 Membership Application	
Name		Farm Name	
Mailing Addres	ss	City, State, Zip	
Phone	Website	E-mail	
Breeds of Shee	p		
MSBA Memb 2016 Member	ership Year Is January 1 - December ship Dues \$20 per Year/per Farm, Pa	31 yable by January 31, 2016	
		Make check payable to: 1	MSBA Treasurer
MSBA		Mail to: 1600 Bu	Sally Farrell 6 Long Plains Rd 1xton, ME 04093

### **MSBA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

## Calendar of Events and MSBA Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings 2016

June 4-5: Maine Fiber Frolic, Windsor Fairgrounds, Windsor. More information at http://www.fiberfrolic.com/

June 4, 8am - 12pm: MSBA Annual Wool Pool, at the Maine Fiber Frolic. Sheep breeders bringing their wool to the Wool Pool will receive one free entrance ticket to the Fiber Frolic.

Guidelines for selling your wool at this Wool Pool:

We will be accepting clean, well skirted wool only. Wool must be dry. Wool must be from current year's shearing. Wool must be separated into white wool (from white face sheep only) and colored wool (incl. white wool from black face sheep). All bags with wool will be opened and inspected. MSBA will reject any wool that does not meet our stated guidelines.

The following will absolutely not be accepted: Cap and belly wool, tags or manure Wet, musty, and moldy wool Heavy hay chaff. Pull out neck wool that is heavily contaminated Straw, shavings, hay, old wool. All wool must be from current year's shearing Cotted wool Moth damaged wool and/or moth infested wool Hoof trimmings Burdocks Wool contaminated with hair

Wool will be purchased from MSBA members and non-members. For new MSBA members, a pro-rated MSBA 2016 membership fee of \$10.00 will be accepted at the Wool Pool. Replacement wool bags will be available for producers to purchase at the cost of \$5 per bag.

Questions: Please contact Dorothee Grimm at dorothee.grimm@web.de or 207-883-5853

June 23, 7-8:30pm: What sheep, goat and cattle producers ought to know about dewormers, by Dr. Jim Miller, veterinarian with the Louisiana State University vet school, at the Pineland Conference Center, Room A on the Pineland Farms campus in New Gloucester. For more information, contact Gary Anderson, UMaine Extension Specialist 207-581-3240.

Dr. Miller is a parasitologist whose research has involved sheep and goat parasites. He and his wife spend time in Maine each summer. Consider attending this workshop to meet Dr. Miller and learn more about this important topic. http://www.lsu.edu/vetmed/pbs/people/faculty/pbs\_faculty\_pages/miller.php

June 28, 6pm: MSBA board meeting via conference call.

July 24: Open Farm Day, statewide. More information at www.getrealmaine.com

August 4-5: Annual Open House at Bartlettyarns in Harmony. Free Mill Tours from 10am - 4pm each day. The store will be open both days. More information at <u>http://www.bartlettyarns.com/</u> or on their Facebook page.



September 23-25: Common Ground Fair, Unity. More information at <u>mofga.org</u> Clare Thomas-Pino is calling out to all MSBA members to send her information for her sheep presentation at the fair: pictures to show the diversity of breeds of sheep, what people are doing with sheep products, pictures of handling of sheep/sheep in barns, lambing, pasture, etc. Please send your pictures to Clare Thomas@umit.maine.edu

October 1-2: Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival, Tunbridge, VT. More information at <u>vtsheepandwoolfest.com</u>

October 15-16: New York State Sheep & Wool Festival, Rhinebeck, NY. More information at <u>www.sheepandwool.com</u>

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





MSBA Maine Sheep Breeders Association

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