



The Producer

Maine Sheep Breeders Quarterly Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2012

Sheep & Goat Parasite Seminar and Annual meeting

2011 members attending the annual meeting followed the Sheep and Goat Seminar October 2011.



Welcome to our newest elected MSBA Directors

Dorothee Grimm and Donna Flint

Both members will be serving three year terms 2012-2014

Plan to join us for our Evening work shop Jan 11 at 6pm at the Maine Ag Trade Show in Augusta

6:00 PM Welcome & Announcements with MSBA President Phil Webster

6:10 PM Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) - Prevention & Treatments with Richard Brzozowski UMaine Extension

6:30 PM Wool 101 - Selecting & Evaluating Fleece for Best Use with Nancy Williams of Waldoboro and Kelly Corbett of Woolwich

8:00 PM Adjourn

Hope to see everyone there.

Phillip Webster, president



The 71st annual Agricultural Trades Show will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on January 10 -12, 2012. Admission is FREE! Show hours Tuesday Jan 10th 9-5, Wednesday Jan 11th 9-8, Thursday January 12th 9-3.



2012 MSBA Vice President elected in November

The 2012 Wool Pool will be returning to the Fiber Frolic the first weekend in June 2012. If you are interested in learning more about the event please contact our **Vice President**

Al Maloney
207 832-5162
newaim@midcoast.com

We are looking forward a another successful event. Wool prices have been high for the past 18 months and a good clip will command a good price. We can all gain by making the 2012 the best pool possible.

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

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

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

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

Maine Sheep Breeders Association 2012 Membership Dues payable by Jan 31, 2012

Name _____ Farm Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

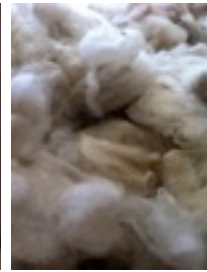
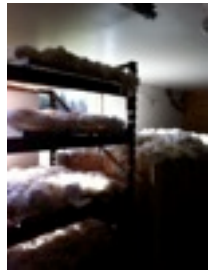
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Website _____

Breeds of sheep _____



MSBA membership year is Jan 1-Dec 31
\$20.00 per year/per farm.

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



A series of webinars will be held on consecutive Thursday nights in January and February 2012. The webinars will focus on the feeding and nutrition of sheep and goats.

- January 12 - Digestive physiology
- January 19 - Nutrients
- January 26 - Feedstuffs
- February 2 - Nutritional management
- February 9 - Rational balancing
- February 16 - Nutritional disorders



Each webinars will begin at 7:30 p.m. EST and last for approximately one hour. An hour of questions and answers will follow. Topics may overlap more than one webinar. University of Maryland Extension Specialists and Educators will be the instructors for the webinars.

Anyone with an internet connection may participate in the webinars. High speed access is recommended. The first 100 people who log onto <https://connect.moo.umd.edu/sschoen/> will be able to participate. All webinars will be recorded and available for later viewing at <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/recordings.html>.

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/2012webinars.pdf>



Susan Schoenian
 Sheep & Goat Specialist
 W. MD Research & Education Center
 University of Maryland Extension
sschoen@umd.edu - (301) 432-2767 x343
www.sheepandgoat.com

Advertise here for
 only \$100 per year,
 reaching producers
 across the state

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

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



MSBA website
www.mainesheepbreeders.com

Prepare Now for Lambing Season

Preparing now for the winter lambing season will be beneficial to producers in the form of timely management. The care of the ewe and her newborn lamb at and shortly after lambing time are crucial. The profitability of the sheep enterprise is determined largely by the pounds of lamb marketed relative to input costs. Pounds of lamb marketed is significantly related to the number of lambs marketed per ewe exposed. Research has shown that dystocia (lambing difficulty) and starvation/hypothermia are two major causes of lamb mortality. Avoiding lamb losses from these problems requires close observation and immediate access to management aids. Having the necessary tools, facilities, and medications available when these problems arise will result in more live lambs due to timely management and treatment. The following list contains items that should be on-hand when ewes begin to lamb:

- Feeding tube
- Plastic sleeves and lubricant for pulling lambs
- Frozen colostrum
- Milk replacer
- Warming box for chilled lambs
- Rectal thermometer
- Syringes and needles
- Iodine solution
- Injectable Vit. E/Selenium
- Vaccines (enterotoxemia, tetanus)
- Ear tags (or other identification supplies)
- Docking and castration instruments
- Disinfectant



[Mid-States Wool Growers :: Lambing Supplies](#)

[Lambing and Kidding Supplies - Premier1Supplies](#)

[Pipestone Veterinary Clinic](#)

Prepare for the worst and hope for the best

If you have questions or problems during winter lambing season please remember you can always call or email any of your MSBA Directors for support.

In addition, facility enhancements or repairs may be needed. The lambing barn environment is important to newborn lamb health and buildings should be kept draft-free and dry. Lambing jugs are also important, both as a management tool for the shepherd and as a facilitator of bonding between the ewe and her newborn lamb. Lambing jugs need to be a minimum of 4 ft. x 4ft., and may be as large as 6 ft. x 6 ft. for large breeds or flocks with large numbers of multiple births. Approximately 1 lambing jug is needed for every 10 pregnant ewes. However, more may be needed during heavy lambing periods or with flocks having a large number of multiple births that require more time in the jugs.

Producing more with less while improving the environment are primary aims of any agricultural operation. An effective means of achieving this is through multi species grazing.

A practice dating back to Biblical times, multi species grazing occurs naturally in many grasslands such as the Serengeti plain of East Africa. Multi species grazing refers to the use of more than one type of large herbivore to graze a common resource. Multi species grazers may be either domestic or wild animals, and the grazing may occur simultaneously or at different times.

PAIRING SHEEP AND CATTLE

Studies show that pairing sheep and cattle enhances both livestock production and the environment. This is due primarily to each species dietary preferences and grazing habits. For example, sheep diets usually have more forbs and less grass than cattle diets. Sheep graze lower in the forage canopy, can select fine-scale mixtures more easily, and have a more varied diet than do cattle. When forage is scarce, competition between sheep and cattle tends to decrease because cattle shift their diet to lower-quality and more available forage, while sheep continue to select their preferred diet.

Furthermore, grazing sheep and cattle together may result in fewer losses of sheep to predators since cattle are larger and tend to be more aggressive. The Agricultural Research Service is conducting research on this grazing advantage.

BENEFITS OF MULTI SPECIES GRAZING

Multiple species, with their unique dietary preferences, will result in plant communities that are more resistant not only to grazing impacts but to other factors affecting ecosystem stability, such as drought.

Message from the President



Dear Friends,

Winter of 2012 is upon us, please don't let this warm weather lull you into not having your barn ready for snow and cold weather. The zero degree nights will soon be here.

It has been a long and warm fall allowing us to keep our sheep on pasture much longer than I can ever remember. This extra exercise the ewes have had will help coming lambing time in late Feb and March. Grain prices have dropped in the Midwest due to the sluggish market over seas. I have read China has increase their own corn and soybean crops and this could trickle down to lower grain prices for us during the winter months. Hay is still scarce in square bales but seems to be plentiful in wrapped and round bales. I hope your barn is full of lush 1st and 2nd cut hay and your grain bins are overflowing...that sure would make it easier to sleep at night!

Lamb and cull ewe prices have held strong thru the fall and early winter, it certainly is a good time to own and raise sheep. Thank you for a few minutes of your time and have a safe and prosperous new year. Phillip Webster

The Economic Impacts of the Maine Sheep and Goat Industry 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) confirmed that it has reinstated the collecting of data for the January Sheep & Goat Report.

In a [press release](#), NASS stated that it recognizes the importance of NASS's data products and services to U.S. agriculture.

Data collection will begin December 23 with a report date of January 27.

You should have received your Sheep and Goat Report from USDA by now to fill out. Please take a few minutes and fill out the report and return it. The information helps us to fund our activities on a state and national level.

Number of Farms

706 farms listed with sheep and goats
364 farms listed sheep and goats as the primary income source

Land in Farms

16,700 acres

Number of Sheep and Goats

11,000 sheep
2,500 milk goats
3,000 meat goats

Market Value of Wool

\$298,290 based on 67,000 pounds sheared each year

- 3,000# wool pool @ \$.68/# \$2,040
- 9,000# specialty wool @\$10/# \$90,000
- 55,000# spinners fleece and other fiber arts @\$3.75/# \$206,250

Market Value of Lamb

\$2.21 million based on 17,000 lambs @\$2/# @ 65#/lamb

Market Value of Cull Sheep

\$233,750 based on 2,200 sheep @\$.85/# @125#/sheep

Market Value of Dairy Goats

\$600,000 based on 2,500 milking goats @\$.60/#@ 400#/doe/year

Market Value of Meat Goats

\$825,000 based on 11,000 kids@\$75/kid

Market Value of Cull Goats

\$110,000 based on 1,100 cull goats@\$100/goat

Total Value in Sheep and Goat Production

\$4.28 million in total direct sales

Produced by the Maine Farm Bureau Sheep and Goat Committee based on 2007 Census of Agriculture and 2009-2010 Livestock Markets Reports



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

MSBA contacts

President Phillip Webster
northstarfarms@me.com

Vice President Al Maloney
newaim@midcoast.com

Treasurer Richard Brzozowski
richard.brzozowski@maine.edu

Secretary Lisa Webster
msba@me.com

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

Thank you to our retired Board of Directors

Mary Burr and Perry Ells for your many years of help.
We wish you the very best in your newest farming
ventures!

**Have you mailed
your membership
dues for 2012?
Still only \$20
for a full year of
information,
activities and fun**