



The Producer

Maine Sheep Breeders Quarterly Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2010



MSBA summer Tour

Saturday August 14th.

The Maine Sheep Breeders Association invites you to join us for our Open Farm/Mill tour Saturday August 14th.

This event is focused on the fiber side of raising sheep

The tour will begin at 10am at Rite Way Scouring located at 36 Chapel Rd in Waldoboro. Directions are available at <http://www.ritewayscouring.com/Directions.htm>

Rite Way Scouring offers commercial scouring services for all natural fibers. Operating a 4 bowl scouring system, Rite-Way currently has the capacity to wash 200 to 300lbs. of raw fiber a day. The drying process is usually completed in 24 hours, after this we can bale your fiber and arrange for shipping to your mill of choice.

The next stop on the tour will be NEWAIM Fiber Mill also located in Waldoboro approximately 5 miles from Rite Way. The address is 13 Robinson Rd. Directions are available at <http://newaimfibermill.com/directions.shtml> We expect to arrive at this location around 11am.

NEWAIM Fiber Mill is a complete fiber processing mill, including dehairing, using equipment produced by Belfast Mini Mills. The equipment of this scale allows the processing of small batches of fiber so customers know that they are getting their own fleece back. The minimum lot size is only 3 lb. so in many case, individual fleeces can be processed.

Our final destination will be Romney Ridge Farm located at 5 Meadow Rd in Woolwich. We plan to arrive about 12:30pm and spend a half hour or so having a pot luck lunch. Be sure to bring something along to share. Directions to Romney Ridge Farm can be found at <http://www.romneyridgefarm.com/Yarnshop.html>

Romney Ridge has a retail shop in the premises where they sell yarns produced from Maine raised fiber. There will be a MSBA BOD meeting following the completion of the tour.

If you have any questions or need further directions, call Al Maloney 207 701-7590



Become a member of the
Maine Sheep Breeders Association
Membership Form 2010-2011

Name _____

Breed of sheep you currently raise (or
may in the future):

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Sheep related products you offer:

e-mail _____

Membership is \$20.00 per year/per farm.
MSBA membership year is July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Make check payable to: **MSBA Treasurer**
Mail to:
MSBA Treasurer, Richard Brzozowski
PO Box 9300
Portland ME 04104-9300

Youth members: Yes or No

MSBA summer & fall meetings and events



For sheep people by sheep people

August 14 - Open Farm Mill Tour

RiteWay Scouring-Waldoboro

NEWAIM FIBER MILL- Waldoboro

Romney Ridge Farm -Woolwich

September 8 - MSBA Board Meeting Augusta

September 24-26 Common Ground Fair

October 23- Annual Meeting/Dinner- Shepherd

School

KVCC Fairfield

November 23, 2010 - Fall Directors Meeting

Augusta at 6:30

MOFA's 34th Common Ground Country Fair, Sept. 24-26, 2010

Not to be missed by fiber lovers is the Fleece Tent, showcasing the best of Maine-grown wool and specialty fibers.

Sale ongoing all three days, 9:00-6:00, Friday and Saturday, and 9:00-5:00, Sunday. There will also be informal fiber talks and demonstrations. Fleece judging is Saturday, starting at 10:00. Be sure, also, to visit the Wednesday Spinners and the Fiber Marketplace, both adjacent to the Fleece Tent; the booths in the Maine Fiber Farms area; and the many fiber businesses in the Maine Ag Booths area. Everyone is invited to an open spin with the Wednesday Spinners on Sunday, September 26, 10:00-4:00. Please join us! FMI about the Fair, especially for opportunities to volunteer, visit www.mofga.org. For additional Fleece Tent information, contact Penelope Olson at mizoly@midcoast.com or telephone 207-785-2784.

June 19th, the M.S.B.A. held a field trip to Blue Ribbon Farm owned by Bob and Mary Burr of Mercer. The farm tour demonstrated the 2009 installation of both a cement apron installed around the sheep barn and the installation of an adjoining manure pit. Peter A'Bello from the Somerset County regional National Resource & Conservation Service (NRCS) was present to answer questions and give advice to interested participants.



In addition to the manure management system, the Burr's showcased their high tunnel greenhouse (32' x 48'). The composted sheep manure feeds the soil of the greenhouse and this integrated system allows for year round vegetable production based on the resource knowledge of Elliot Coleman's method. With no auxiliary heat, just the two layers of plastic over the metal framework, vegetables can be harvested twelve months of



It was one of those hot, early summer days, but with the breeze under the shade of several large trees, the potluck lunch made for an enjoyable summer experience.

Mary Burr, Vice President MSBA



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

American Sheep Industry 2010 Spring Legislative Trip

-Brant Miller

On May 5, 2010, I had the privilege to travel to Washington, DC for the American Sheep Industry Annual Spring Legislative Trip. The goal of this trip is for producers from the entire country to represent the collective interest of the American sheep industry directly with their Congressional Delegations. Nearly 73 producers from 25 states gathered in Washington for the 3 day event.

On Wednesday, we arrived in the capitol city and gathered for the 2010 American Lamb Barbecue. There were over 200 guests including a few Senators and Representatives and many Congressional staff and USDA officials. The lamb was donated by Mountain States Rosen and was excellent. The BBQ offers an opportunity to discuss many sheep industry issues in a very informal atmosphere. Good food and a beverage or two loosens lips and information flows. I extended invitations to our Senators, but they both had prior commitments. Next year I want to invite all four of our delegation with the hope of getting at least one to attend.

On Thursday, I was able to meet in person with Senator Collins, Senator Snowe, and Representative Michaud and their staff. I also met with Representative Pingree's staff followed by a brief chat with her at the end. I've been on this trip three other times and never succeeded in meeting directly with more than one of the delegation.

I extended a thank-you to all the delegation for their assistance in working with the FAA concerning the low flight levels of the Condor 1 and Condor 2 flight training over Western Maine. These flights have potentially negative have an impact on livestock in these areas and all four of them teamed together to work on this issue.

Other industry issues that we discussed include:

- Eastern Region Wildlife Services funding
- Mandatory Price Reporting (due to expire in September)
- 2012 Farm Bill
- Food Safety
- Scrapie
- Estate Tax
- Equal Access to Justice



(Continued from page 4)

Of particular interest to some Maine producers, we discussed the H2A immigrant program. Most if not all the delegation were unaware that some Maine sheep producers use (or try to use...) the program. The complexity of the program has made it all but unavailable and it has become a real impediment to growth for some Maine producers. The delegation all agreed to learn more about the program and to try to make it more accessible.

USDA restrictions on slaughter/processing facilities were also discussed; particularly as it has an impact on potential growth opportunities for producers. These restrictions have an impact on both federal and state licensed facilities. The lack of commercial processing in Maine is a significant barrier to growth.

We also discussed the 2012 Farm Bill including programs that could help increase the national sheep inventory. Maine producers have started an ambitious effort to increase sheep production in Maine that mirrors the ASI efforts and Farm Bill programs such as a retained ewe lamb program could be very useful here.

Steve Lee from the American Sheep and Goat Center (ASGC) was able to join me for the meeting with Senator Snowe. Steve is the

Executive Director of the ASGC which operates out of Rockland, Maine. I hope to introduce Steve to Maine producers at some point and provide the opportunity for producers to learn about the resources available from ASGC.

On Friday, we met with USDA officials. Dr. John Clifford, Administrator for Veterinary Services informed us that there is a significant increase in Foot and Mouth Disease around the world and that depopulation is no longer the primary tool to deal with disease outbreaks. Vaccines have become the accepted tool. The scrapie program is now estimated to be complete by 2017 instead of the original 2010. USDA is considering regionalizing scrapie free status prior to 2017. Dr. Clifford also informed us that the appearance of NOR-98 will not pose any threat to exports.

Next, Dr. Edward Avalos, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Services discussed the Department's emphasis on stimulating rural economic development. He also reaffirmed his commitment to getting the Sheep Improvement Center funded. If they can get an interim final rule printed, appointments to the board could be made by December. Grants available from the Sheep Improvement Center could be crucial to the ASI sheep inventory growth project. One producer cited a recent economic

study that projected that 1 full time job can be created for every increase of 85 production ewes.

Bill Clay, Deputy Administrator for Wildlife Services presented some interesting predation information from the latest NAIS Survey. In 2005 there was a loss of \$35 million to the sheep and goat industries from predation. Sixty-three percent of that was from coyotes and 18% from dogs. This compares to a \$21.6 loss in 1990 with a similar breakdown. That is a huge increase and is yet another impediment to growth in the sheep industry. Wildlife Services funding has recently come under heavy attack from the animal activist groups, so we must be diligent about communicating the value of their services to our respective delegations.

The real take home message from visiting with our delegation is that although a lot of information floats through the Senator's and Representative's offices, it seldom becomes "real" until they hear it directly from real producers. All four of our delegation were very appreciative of the visit and expressed a desire to stay in more regular touch.

(continued on page 6)





Continued from page 5)

Although all of the staffers were impressive, Terry McNaughton from Senator Snowe's office and William Perry from Representative Michaud's office stood out with their breadth of knowledge about agriculture. Erin McGuire, from Representative Pingree's Portland office is regularly attending AGCOM meetings and is becoming well versed in Maine agriculture issues. I believe our delegation can only provide effective agricultural leadership if we continue to engage them on a regular basis and I found them very receptive. I hope to have the opportunity to participate in more of these trips and encourage other producers to consider attending. Let's make a goal of having at least three Maine producers on next year's trip!

MSBA website www.mainesheepbreeders.org

mailing address MSBA c/o Phillip Webster, president PO Box 1867 Windham, ME 04062



Brant Miller for Maine Legislature

participated in the "What Maine Harvests" farm tour for candidates on Tuesday sponsored by the AG Council of Maine. We toured 5 farms to show the vitality of agriculture and its role in our economy. I wore 2 hats, 1 as candidate and 1 representing the Maine's sheep industry who donated lamb for dinner. I was able to provide a presentation on Maine's sheep industry's past, present, and exciting future.

MSBA contacts

President — Phillip Webster northstarfarms@me.com

Vice President — Mary Burr mburr@tdstelme.net

Treasurer — Richard Brzozowski rbrz@umext.maine.edu

Secretary — Lisa Webster northstarfarms@me.com

A complete list of the Directors and their contact information is available on the MSBA website



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

SHEEP MANAGEMENT during Breeding Season

A management calendar of suggested practices to follow is useful to the beginning as well as experienced producers in managing the sheep flock. Sheep production evolves around the lambing season. Therefore, the production cycle starts approximately 6 months prior to the date you want your first lambs to be born. The following guidelines are not intended to fit every sheep operation but merely serve as suggested practices that might be useful if they fit your operation. Because every sheep operation is different, a separate sheep calendar should be tailored to fit a flock's needs.

PRIOR TO BREEDING

Purchase rams 45-60 days prior to start of breeding season.

Drench ewes and rams for internal parasites.

Trim feet (do rams 30 days prior to start of breeding season).

Shear rams.

Provide cool environment for rams.

Condition rams by giving some grain if too thin.

Shoot for a 3.5 body condition score.

Vaccinate ewes for campylobacteriosis (vibrio) and enzootic abortion (EAE).

Begin flushing ewes 2-3 weeks prior to start of breeding season and continue into breeding.

BREEDING

Use marker on rams - change color every 17 days.

Observe breeding activity of rams, remove boss rams, rotate rams.

If weather is hot, run rams with ewes at night and keep in cool environment during day.

Remove rams after 51 days.

Information supplied by James M. Thompson Extension Sheep Specialist Oregon State University

Pasta with Lamb Sausage Recipe

Mary Burr of Blue Ribbon Farm

1 lb. of lamb sausage (Garlic, Sweet Italian or what ever your desire)

½ cup of fresh pesto

1 lb. cauliflower

1 lb. broccoli

6 oz penne pasta

Vodka Penne Sauce

4 oz soft goat cheese (e.g. - cracked pepper)

Cut florets of cauliflower and broccoli into small pieces, spread with pest and bake until el dente. Cook the lamb sausage and cut into ½” pieces and set aside. Boil the pasta until just short of al- dente and combine with your favorite Vodka Penne Sauce.

Minutes from the June 19th board meeting

Maine Sheep Breeders

Board of Directors meeting held

June 19th at Blue Ribbon Farm

hosted by Mary and Bob Burr

Attending: Phil and Lisa, Dick,

Mary, Diane, Al along with guests

Many directors did not attend but did notify the Sec

Treasurer's report

Checking \$76.79.67

CD \$3697.14

Savings \$1449.80, roll into CD for better interest rate.

Motion to accept by Lisa, second by Mary

Treasurer's report accepted

Sec report read, accepted with one change

Ram Evaluation: Dick will follow up and confirm this event is still happening

Wool Pool: 4000+ pounds were collected and purchased by Bartlette Yarns. All producers have been paid. No negative feed back from the change from Fiber Frolic to NELE in 2010. Fiber Frolic liked the extra room and we will plan to hold it at NELE again in 2011.

NELE report on sheep sale and related event was given by Lisa Webster

Fiber Frolic: 1200 people attended even with the rain. The event broke even or gained slightly.

There was a lot of general public interest. \$8200 of fleece was sold. It rained both days. Great media coverage of the event

ASI: tabled until the next meeting

Old business: NONE

New Business:

Display committee formed

Dick B

Diane S

Dorothee GrimmWelcome!

Dorothee contact information:

207-272-2600

207-883—5853

dorothee.grimm@web.de

Budget for the project \$800,

projected completion date Aug 2010

Discussion followed as to the type and size of a display. Possible issues with using the display outside as well as discussion on the portability of the display.

Committee will report back to the president with progress during July

Farm Tour of July- Al M will organize and send info for the early July issue of the Producer. FAMCHA- summer clinic to be held possibly July 17 . Suggestion was made to try this at the same time as ram evaluation if the event is held. If not the FAMCHA will be held at a southern ME farm.

Northstar farm was asked but will not be available on Sat. They are willing to host on Sunday if needed. Dick will let us know the details and write up the article of the July producer.

The next board of directors meeting will be help on August 14, 2010 inconnjuntion with the Mill and Farm tour of the New Castle Region.

The Maine Extension Office would like to partner with MSBA to develop a program for Herding Dogs. Discussion followed on this

possibility and a committee was formed

Herding Dog committee

Phillip Webster (chair)

John Simmons

Committee will report back at the August meeting

Discussion followed about the lack of press releases and all agree we have not done a good job with this. Sec expressed her agreement that the job is her responsibility (and that she has done a poor job at it).

Producer update: No communication from Jami on this matter and collapse of the printing of the last producer put together at the last minute by Kelly happened while Dick was away from his office during May. Next issue needs to be out in early July and ALL board members have agreed to submit their information to Lisa before the 15th of July. Lisa will put together the Producer from the gathered info and send it along to be printed and mailed. Electronic issue will go to Kelly.

Sally Merrill of sunset Acres is no longer in the sheep business and has a lawn display for MSBA. Motion passed to send \$50 to Sally of this article and possibly use it within our new display.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Lisa Webster, sec MSBA

Minutes from the April 14 meeting

MSBA met on April 14th at the great Wall in Augusta

Attending: Mary, Felix, Diane, Joe, Kelly, Brant, Dick, Phil and Lisa Webster

Not attending: Cindy K, Elizabeth, Perry, Al and Jami

Meeting called to order by the president Phil Webster

Secretary report submitted and accepted

Treasurer report:

We have received \$800 from MLEA grant

Balance in checkbook \$6120.49

CD \$3687.64 and has been

renewed at 1% interest

We have a bill with Mid-state to pay for 50 wool bags of \$300

We have applied for \$1000 scrapie \$ from ASI as well as \$800 for wool outreach program. Our

membership determines amount of funding from ASI

Motion made by Joe to accept report and was seconded by Felix, motion carried

Old Business

NELE plans are going good

Wool pool bids will be sent out to bidders by Diane (Perry was not available today but sent the information on the pool along with Diane)

Fiber Frolic: sheep needed for the display barn, requesting all breeds if possible. Lisa will file COI for the event.

New Business

Shepherd of the year

Possible persons for this year

- Dave Averill
- Lee Straw
- Ann Gass

Discussion followed as to the selection.

Joe Miller spoke:

Ann Gass is 80 years old, past president of MSBA, paid member, lifelong sheep producer and a fleece judge at northeast shows

Also discussed honoring Charlie Smith (he has past by had a large influence on the sheep in Maine during his life.

Motion was made by Mary Burr and seconded by Brent to honor Ann Gass at this year's annual meeting to be held on October 23 in the evening following the sheep and goat school in Fairfield ME at KVCC

Kelly put the April Producer together and forwarded to Dick's office (Jamie was not able to complete it due to work and farm schedule for April) Jamie plans to be back on board for the June issue.

Items to be included in the June Producer

- Wool Bid and Pool to be submitted by Kelly
- Meat Cutting Photos to be submitted by Dick
- Shearing school photos to be submitted by Dick
- ASI trip to Washington to be submitted by Brant

- President message
- Photos and recap of Farm Day at Blue Ribbon and minutes from April and June meetings will be sent by Lisa

There will be Ram Evaluation held at Orono on July 10th by Dr Jim Webber

Dick has a Sr. Student who has a presentation and survey on Predators and who possible would be available for a presentation at a MSBA event

ASI report:

ASIS is reaching out to youth via Facebook, Lamb Board is also reaching out to the public via Facebook.

All committee members submitted to ASI were elected

Submitted to members of the Board for review by the secretary Lisa Webster.

Please let me know if you find any omissions or corrections

Thanks

Lisa

UPDATE: Change to the minutes: ASI trip for Brant \$450 to cover the airfare to Washington DC was approved by all directors

Minutes accepted with change at the June 19th meeting



Message from the Maine Sheep Breeders Association President
Phillip Webster

Greetings,

What a wonderful summer we have had to date. Hay and grain will be bountiful this fall and after the past several summers we all need plentiful harvest, robust grains and reasonable feed costs.

If you plan to have January lambs you will need to start preparing for summer breeding season. This includes checking for soundness in the rams, flushing the ewes and checking for worms before turning the ram in for breeding. One of my greatest pleasures during breeding season is pairing the ewe genetics with the right ram and anticipating the “next great one”.

Enjoy the summer months and circle your calendar for our annual meeting October 23, 2010 to be held at KVCC in Fairfield.

Phil

Summer 2010



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