Volume XX
Issue 3

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE

FALL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Come to the
Fall Meeting and Pot Luck Supper

October 24, 2009
Doors open at 5:30

Bring a (large) dish to share
Drinks and dessert will be supplied.

Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

South Foster Fire Station
Rt 94, Foster, RI

Following Dinner we will have a short meeting, followed by:

"ASK THE PANEL NIGHT"

A panel of experts to answer your sheep related questions - from breeding management, housing, pastures, nutrition and feeds, to lambing, diseases and wool/fleece handling. We expect participation from our members and friends! Questions can be written down when you arrive, and will be read to the panel to for discussion and answers.

Come join us for a delicious meal
and an educational evening!

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Check out the cooperative's website: www.risheep.org

Catching and Setting A Sheep Up On Its Rump

(Searching on the web, the following methods were found on how to sit a sheep on its rump, also noted is where the information was found - Editor)

Information from Alcorn State University, MS:

When producers work with sheep, the management practices of shearing and hoof trimming are essential. Being able to catch and set up a sheep on its rump can make these procedures much easier and less time consuming. The chance of causing injury to both the animal and the producer will also be decreased.

Question: How would you catch a sheep in a large area?
Answer: Make the area smaller with sturdy pens or hinged panels. Then crowd a small group of ewes together or cut yours out with sorting shute or simply catch it under the jaw.

Question: When catching a sheep, why shouldn't the wool be grabbed?
Answer: When may be pulled from the lamb and bruises will show up on the carcass.

Question: Why is it important to keep the nose up when catching a sheep?
Answer: Sheep stop best and are easier to control when the nose is up.

Question: Why is having a sheep on its rump a good way to work on it?
Answer: With none of the feet touching the ground the sheep won't struggle. This allows all feet to be accessible for hoof trimming.

Question: What are some ways to set a sheep on its rump?
Answer: *With your hand under the nose, bend the sheep's head sharply over its right shoulder; as you press your hand down on its right hip swing the sheep toward you.
*Stand behind the sheep. Hold under its front legs and raise it up to your knees. Let it down on its rump.
*Reach across under the sheep and pull the opposite rear leg toward you. Bring the sheep to a sitting position.
*Hook your right elbow under the sheep's right front leg and roll the sheep over your left knee to a sitting position.

Question: Instead of holding the sheep against your legs to trim the feet, what else might you do?
Answer: Put two bales of straw in a V-shape and lean the ewe against them. Put the ewe in a metal or plywood sheep chair. Use mechanical squeeze which holds the sheep on its side for easy access to the feet.

Information from Sheep Handbook - Animal Science Cornell University:

Catching the Sheep- Sheep should be caught in the flank or around the neck. Never grab or hold a sheep by the wool. This bruises the skin.

Setting Up and Holding the Sheep- This position is useful for trimming feet and shearing. Follow these 3 steps:
Step 1: Place left arm under the sheep's jaw and around his neck, right hand on back of sheep's leg just below the hocks.
Step 2: Pull left rear leg forward with right hand and lift head slightly with left arm. This pushes the sheep into a sitting position on its dock.
Step 3: To hold the sheep in this position grasp front legs of sheep and with your legs exert pressure on sheep's side and back.

Information from Introduction to the Sheep Industry and Working with sheep - University of Missouri Animal Sciences

Handling sheep- Sheep should never be handled in a rough manner. Grabbing sheep by the wool or the back leg can cause injury and/or decrease their market value. In addition, electric prods should not be used. Also, dogs should only be used to work sheep if they are well trained. Sheep neck crooks are useful tools when catching sheep. However, leg crooks should never be used as they can easily break a leg when used improperly. Sometimes it is necessary to handle a sheep on an individual basis in order to shear, trim feet, administer medication, check udders, or trim feet. Sheep can easily be flipped by hand if you know the proper way. One easy way is the "nose to tail" method. In this way, the nose and tail meet which throw the sheep off balance and then will easily and safely be lowered to the ground. Another method is the "steer dogger" technique. The nose is turned over the back until the sheep loses its balance and gently falls to the ground. A method which should never be used is the "calf roper" technique. This causes undo stress on both the sheep and the handler. Not to mention, some sheep are simply to heavy to lift. The two recommend methods can be easily be done, with practice, by anyone of any size. When sheep are flipped in either the "nose to tail" or "steer dogger" method, they should be then nestled in-between the handler's legs. This is called "setting the sheep up". However, the sheep should not be made to sit on their tailbone. This is extremely painful to the animal. The proper sitting position is slightly off center on either hip.

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With the cool fall days coming, here is a soup recipe to stop the chills:

Chunky Lamb and Vegetable Soup

Serving Size: Makes 8 servings
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

Ingredients:
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 pound lamb, (boneless shoulder or leg) cut into 1/2-inch cubes
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 15-ounce cans diced tomatoes and juice
2 8-ounce cans tomato sauce
1 large onion, chopped
3 large stalks celery, chopped
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon dried basil leaves, crushed
2 cups water
1 10-ounce package frozen green beans, partially thawed
1 10-ounce package frozen sliced carrots, partially thawed
1 10-ounce package frozen corn, partially thawed

Instructions:
In large plastic bag, combine flour, garlic powder, pepper and salt. Add lamb cubes; coat thoroughly with flour mixture. Heat oil in large pan. Add entire contents of bag and brown lamb cubes. Stir in tomatoes and juice, tomato sauce, onion, celery, bay leaf, basil and water. Cover, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer covered for 1 hour. Add green beans, carrots and corn; cover and cook additional 10 minutes.

This recipe was found on the Tri-Lamb Group website. The Tri-Lamb Group is a collaborative initiative between United States, Australia, and New Zealand lamb producers to enhance demand for lamb in the United States. The group is currently working with health professionals and consumers to increase their awareness of the nutritional value of lamb and its place in a healthy American diet. Check it out: http://leanonlamb.com/index.php

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University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension
4-H Volunteers Educating Others about
Livestock Best Management Practices

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES –
"Keeping Livestock and Horses on Small Acreages"
Protecting our drinking water, families and animals

URI 4-H volunteers have been educating fellow livestock and horse owners about manure management and other livestock best management practices. Perhaps you have visited with them at a sheep clinic, the 2009 RI Sheep Cooperative Annual Meeting, or at summer fairs. Fifteen 4-H volunteers received special training with the URI Cooperative Extension Healthy Landscapes Education Program and have devoted over 46 hours of education and outreach activities. Volunteers have conducted hands-on workshops and staffed the Healthy Landscapes poster and fact sheet display, answering questions and providing resources on various topics.

Do you know how to…
-store and handle manure?
-protect your drinking water well?
-recycle manure on the land, and what to do if land is limited?
-manage livestock yards and reduce mud?
-manage pastures to reduce feed costs, and how a pasture differs from a livestock yard?
-control animal access to streams and ponds?

Visit our web site for more information including a fact sheet series on manure, livestock yard and pasture management and self-assessment worksheets that help you identify and plan for improvements. The web site also provides demonstration sites and a wealth of on-line resources for various topics including composting, recycling manure on land and private well water testing. Visit our website at www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes or contact Holly Burdett at (401) 874-5398, hburdett@uri.edu for more information.

The Healthy Landscapes Education Program is conducted by the University of Rhode Island (URI) Cooperative Extension Water Quality and 4-H Programs, the URI Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science, and the URI Department of Communications Studies. It is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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BREEDING SEASON PREPARATION

By: Rory Lewandowski,
Extension Educator, Athens County, Ohio
Reprinted with permission.

Reproductive performance is an important factor in determining profitability in the sheep flock. Most breeds of sheep have seasonal breeding patterns and the majority of flocks in Ohio are spring lambing. In this scenario, the peak fertility of the ewe is from late September through November. The breeding season will extend somewhat beyond peak fertility for the late spring lambing system and begin somewhat before peak fertility for the late winter lambing system. Some management attention given to the ewes and rams prior to the breeding season can pay dividends in terms of increased conception and lambing rate.

A primary consideration regardless of the lambing production system and timing used is nutrition of the flock. The nutritional status of the ewe and ram at breeding is probably the primary factor that influences reproductive performance. The nutritional status of the flock is

also a factor that a flock manager has a lot of control over. Evaluation of the body condition of the ram and ewe before breeding can tell the manager whether nutrient consumption should be increased or decreased. Based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very thin and 5 being fat, the goal should be to have the ram and ewe enter the breeding season somewhere around a 3.5 body condition score.

One practice that is helpful with ewes that are below the target body condition score is to provide them with a diet high in energy that allows them to gain weight. This practice is termed flushing and should be done 2 to 4 weeks before breeding. The high energy diet can be provided by supplementing a high energy grain such as corn at a rate of one-half to one pound per ewe per day, or by providing a high quality pasture. Flushing can result in an increased lambing rate and a decreased number of open ewes.

One caution that is generally given if ewes are to be flushed using a high quality pasture is to keep them off pastures with a high content of legumes (clovers and alfalfa) and use grass pastures. The reason given is that these legumes contain estrogen that leads to infertility and decreases the conception rate and pregnancy of the ewes. Does this caution mean that ewes must graze pure grass pastures? Legumes typically help to boost the energy content of a pasture sward and generally are considered as a positive to improve pasture quality. What does high content of legumes mean?

Clovers and alfalfa contain compounds known as phytoestrogens. In clover species the specific compounds are isoflavones. These isoflavones exhibit estrogen like behavior in sheep, while cattle do not seem to be affected by them to the same degree. I reviewed some of the scientific literature about this topic and it appears that sheep are more susceptible to the effects of isoflavones because as they are metabolized in cattle they are rapidly excreted in the urine, whereas in sheep they are not rapidly excreted and remain in their system longer. In addition, the estrogen receptors in sheep appear to be more sensitive to these compounds as compared to cattle.

There are also other factors that influence the level or concentration of phytoestrogens in legumes. The specific variety is one such factor. Improved cultivars have been found to have lower phytoestrogen contents. Environmental factors such as drought can increase the phytoestrogen content. Finally, soil phosphorus levels can influence the amount of phytoestrogens in legumes. Legumes grown in soil phosphorus deficient conditions have contained higher phytoestrogen concentrations as compared to legumes grown in non-deficient soil phosphorus conditions.

Still, the question remains, what is considered a high level of legumes with regard to this condition? In the literature that I reviewed, the legume stands that produced a negative effect upon reproductive performance were either pure stands or predominantly legume stands. I had a sheep farmer raise this question with me back in 2008 as he wondered about including clover in a grass pasture. I wrote an email to Dr. Shulaw asking him about this issue. He sent me some of the literature that I reviewed and summarized in this article and he also wrote, in part, “At this point in time, unless ewes are grazing pure stands of clover near breeding season I don’t have much evidence to make me concerned about infertility.” As I am out and about on sheep farms and looking at pastures it is rare that I ever see a pasture that contains more than 35 to 40% clover. The bottom line is that unless you have a pasture that is well over 50% clover, it should be fine to use in a flushing pass before the breeding season.

Some attention should also be given to the ram(s). In addition to making sure that they are in good body condition, it is recommended that a breeding soundness exam (BSE) be conducted prior to breeding season. The BSE consists of a physical examination, a reproductive tract examination and a semen evaluation. Waiting until after the breeding season to discover a problem with your ram that shows up in the form of an extended lambing season or open ewes is costly. Contact your veterinarian to schedule a BSE. It is money well spent.

Finally, I need to close with a word about internal parasites. One practice that use to be recommended was to deworm all the ewes and rams in the flock before the breeding season. This practice is no longer recommended due to the resistance that parasites have developed to chemical dewormers. Deworming all ewes and rams at one time is a method that will select for resistance. Instead, deworm with a chemical dewormer based upon individual animal need. This can be determined by using the FAMACHA eyelid color scoring system. Those animals

scoring a 3 or higher on this 1 to 5 scale should be dewormed with a chemical dewormer. Animals scoring a 1 or a 2 should not be dosed with a chemical dewormer. For more information about parasite control and use of the FAMACHA system, contact a member of the OSU Sheep Team.

The breeding season is upon the majority of flock owners in Ohio. Some pro-active management action can insure that it is a successful and profitable breeding season.

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Editor note: recently one of my 4-Hers was hit by a ram (not her own) and fortunately she was not hurt. Searching the internet I found this article and sounded like what I have been "preaching" to my 4-Hers for years now. *Reprinted with permission.*

Raising Respectful Rams

By Letty Klein of Pine lane Farm Karakuls

Originally published in The Shepherd, Vol. 46, No. 2, Feb. 2001, pp 14-15

Tragically the headline in The Charlotte Observer on November 7, 2000 read, "2 dead after ram attack". Carl Beaver, 84 years old, and his wife Mary, 80, of China Grove, North Carolina were found 100 feet from the gate inside the pasture. Mary was dead and Carl died the next morning. The Beavers died after the ram apparently turned on them while they were checking the flock in the pasture. The new 250 pound Suffolk ram was tame enough not to be afraid of people, but became very protective of his dozen ewes during the breeding season. The Beavers were taken by surprise. A neighbor said, "It's hard to imagine that you can't defend yourself against a sheep."

But we all know better, don't we? After all how many times have we heard, "Never turn your back on a ram"? That big ram that we have shown all summer is now turned in with some ewes to work his magic on our breeding program. His attitude changes, he has a new sense of purpose, an incensed possessiveness. He is not the same animal and we are no longer the friendly pat or handful of feed, but we have become the adversary. You can see it in his eyes and mannerisms.

Being tame means he has no fear at all.

Whether he's a massive 400 pound Columbia or a 100 pound tail-wagging Shetland we should be ready, and be on guard. Never, ever trust a ram.

Looking back over the last twenty years of raising a horned breed of sheep, I realize the many mistakes, as well as the successes, we have made in our dealings with rams. Presently we have 7 adult horned rams, all of different, some very rare, bloodlines. Since we sell many replacement breeding rams, we often get the comment "Your rams aren't very friendly." My reply is "Good! That's the way they're trained." When I enter the pen with the rams, I want to see their rear-ends walking away from me, not their faces coming toward me. Let's talk about how best to raise a respectful ram.

Rams need two basic requirements:

1. Lots of room
2. Companionship

A ram can do a lot of damage if confined all alone in a small pen. With our very first ram, 'Red Ram Oliver' we made that mistake. His home was a small pen with a small adjacent outside lot; he was in sort of a solitary confinement. Red smashed everything. We even gave him an 'enrichment toy', a rubber tire suspended from the limb of an overhanging tree. He would hit that tire so hard that it would fly in a big arc, coming around hitting him unceremoniously in the rump. This infuriated him to no end, you could almost see the steam coming from his ears and his eyes flash red. His carcass was finally donated to an ethnic group.

For ten years we had a very large wethered Alpine goat, I called him my 'ram humblizer'. While being very tame and gentle with us, this old goat was definitely the

boss as far as the rams were concerned. He finally met his demise when one of the horned rams got a horn caught in the goat's collar, choking him to death… another lesson learned.

Raising rams from lambs.

Overly assertive or bold ram lambs are identified early and a well placed surprise pail of water in the face will usually do the trick. A firm pinch of the nostrils while roughly lifting his front legs off the ground will thwart the boldness of the young ram who is feeling his oats. We must teach visitors not to touch the young ram's head, or knock him in the head for "play", explaining that this teasing can be a trigger for aggression.

Our rams are haltered and lead-broke shortly after weaning. To work rams we run them into a small pen where they can be caught, haltered and tied to a fence for vaccinations, treatments such as de-worming, and to have their feet trimmed. They are not petted or babied. Remember the head rubbing or nibbling at your pant leg are the first signs of burgeoning aggression in the developing ram lamb - not affection. What is cute in a 40 pound lamb is totally dangerous in a 150 pound ram. Those lambs remaining with unacceptable temperaments are sold for meat.

Breeding groups.

When the rams are in their breeding groups, fence line feeders are used for feeding, so we never have to enter the pastures. At least one empty pasture separates breeding groups. Or if need be, the separating fence line is covered with a couple of layers of plastic snow fence to reduce visibility between rams. If we need to catch the ram or a member of the group, they are all run into a small pen so we can safely separate the individual.

Co-mingling rams.

Come time to remove rams from breeding groups, they are first shorn, then we bring all the rams into a fresh small tight standing-room-only pen for at least 24 hours. Expect much growling, grunting, pushing and shoving. Rams are territorial so these mingling areas should be ones not recently used by any of the rams. Then they are released into a larger area with some nice hay or grass. They will fight until they have reestablished their hierarchy, nothing seems to stop this process. After the period of male bonding they become good buddies again. Our ram pasture has plenty of shade, grass, trees to rub heads on or polish horns and a lean-to shed. Their feeders are close to the fence-line so hay can be tossed easily into the bunk from the outside the fence. I don't normally grain adult rams, it seems to make them very pushy, or as someone wisely suggested, "Grain feeds testosterone". Sex and grain can be triggers for aggression. The rams may need some supplementation by the end of a rough winter, a fence-line trough fills the bill. They always have access to fresh loose salt and unfrozen water. Never pen a ram in solitary confinement for punishment - his bad behavior will only get worse.

Here is a delightful story about the Integration of Rams as told by Margaret McEwen-King of Middletown Farm, Scotland, reproduced here with her kind permission.

> Several years ago I put our rams back together on New Year's Day in a small area and to my great distress our best white Shetland ram (lamb) had a coming together with a moorit one and the white one lost a horn. Chatting about this at crook-making class to a retired shepherd (Jim Ballantyne - now sadly deceased) who had spent all his herding days high in the Trossachs of Scotland near Callander, I was told "you didn't pen them up tight enough". "But I did. They were so tight they couldn't take a run at each other - even just a few steps." Again he responded " You didn't pen them tight enough". A Scottish hill shepherd seldom minces or wastes words. "So how tight do they have to be?" I won't print his reply verbatim, but it was to the effect that if they could stand up, then they could lie down,

and the important thing was that they got each others urine, sweat and everything else intermingled so they all ended up smelling the same. This process was likely to take a couple of days. "Isn't it a bit cruel?" I got a withering look. "They'll all be alive and uninjured. It's cruel if one or more get killed."

Our pen is about 7 foot 6 inches square and accommodates fifteen to twenty rams, from the smallest Shetland to the big Texels and the giant shambling Polwarth. Two walls, a post and rail fence and lashed hurdles to make up the fourth side. Two buckets of water are placed kitty corner and replenished several times a day. Hay is put in several areas. The smell is awful after a day and a half. We let them out into a bigger enclosed area after about 48 hours to feed at the trough. If anyone starts backing up for a run, back they all go back in the pen. It doesn't take that long and they've sorted themselves out.

Another important point is to integrate **all** the rams at once. We once made the mistake of bringing back a ram lamb which had been out on loan about a fortnight after the rest had been integrated. Said lamb was quite determined he was number 14 and not 15 in the pecking order and we had to more or less go through the whole thing again.

Seems that the vital thing is that they smell 'communal'.

Once 'communalized', rams truly seem to enjoy being in the company of other rams. Seems like a period of male-bonding is necessary for mental contentment. But alas, this comradery is short-lived and the communalization step must be repeated every time a member is removed and returned.

A ram's instincts run strong, respect him for that; but **never, ever** trust a ram.

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Meet the RI Raised Livestock Association ("RIRLA")

Rhode Island's agriculture grows and thrives because of the work of many - like the RIRLA.

The ***RI Raised Livestock Association (RIRLA)*** was established in 2005 by a small group of Rhode Island livestock farmers to find a way to address the steadily shrinking supply of local, USDA-inspected livestock processing facilities. The goal was to improve the economic viability of livestock farms.

The Association is a member-based, member-driven organization. All board members are themselves, working farmers. Assisted by grants from the RI Foundation and the US Department of Agriculture, and with support from the RI Rural Development Council, the RI Raised Livestock Association is now an established and growing non-profit partially supported by its Processing Scheduling Service (PSS). Besides the PSS, RIRLA now offers many additional benefits to its members including trainings, networking and other educational events for farmers, technical assistance, grain discounts, a quarterly newsletter and more.

RIRLA also brings multiple benefits to the state of Rhode Island as a whole including

- Contributing over $300,000 annually to Rhode Island's economy
- Strengthening the local food infrastructure
- Improving access to healthy, nutritious, sustainably-produced meat and meat products
- Protecting open space and working farms
- Increasing the business and production capacity of Rhode Island farms
- Preserving Rhode Island's rural culture and history

Why The RIRLA Was Established. As agriculture in the United States has shifted to giant, corporate-owned factory farms, massive feedlots and industrial-sized processing plants located in the mid-western U.S., farmers in Rhode Island and the northeast region have witnessed the steady decline of agricultural infrastructure. For livestock farmers in Rhode Island and New England the lack of local, USDA-approved meat processing facilities translates into a decreasing ability for livestock farmers to remain financially viable.

The consequences for local communities are many - the steady loss

of farm land and open space; money being diverted from the local economy; loss of the region's rural culture and history; decreasing local food security; declining regional food infrastructure; and lack of public access to healthy, sustainable, locally grown food, to name some of the problems.

The solution these Rhode Island farmers came up with was to "re-knit" a piece of the fabric of local agricultural infrastructure. The result was RIRLA's Processing Scheduling Service (PSS). A business model formed in partnership with two local, family-owned meat processing facilities - RI Beef & Veal and Westerly Packing, Inc.., the PSS offers farmer members a convenient, local and cost-effective way to have their animals processed at USDA-inspected facilities. This in turn allows farmers to market and sell their cryovac-packaged, USDA-labeled meat and meat products to the general public, increasing their overall farm income and improving farms' economic viability.

Our Mission. The mission of the Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association is to promote and ensure the preservation of local agricultural lands, Rhode Island's rural economy and the agrarian way of life by creating an organization that will secure a viable infrastructure and provide for the efficient and sustainable production, processing and marketing of quality, value added, locally produced meats in the state of Rhode Island.

What We Do. The RI Raised Livestock Association has four current program areas.

Processing Scheduling Service. The Processing Scheduling Service, based in Rhode Island, offers farmer members a convenient, local and cost-effective way to have their animals processed at USDA-inspected and approved processing facilities. Farmers are then able to market and sell their meat to the public either on the farm or at farmers markets, increasing overall farm income. The result is increased economic viability for RI's farmers and farms.

Member Services. In addition to the Processing Scheduling Service the RI Raised Livestock Association offers many additional benefits to its members including: trainings, networking and other educational events for farmers, technical assistance, grain discounts, a quarterly newsletter, internet resources and more.

Collaborations and Partnerships. RI Raised Livestock Association seeks out and develops partnerships and collaborations that will benefit RIRLA, its members and partner organizations. Current and future collaborations RI Department of Health and RI Division of Agriculture (RI sales permits technical assistance package), Farm Fresh RI (Market Mobile and standards and protocols for "RI Raised"), TJ Hay & Grain (grain discount program), RI Veterinary Medical Association (large animal veterinary services), URI Cooperative extension (agricultural training) and many more. Buy Local RI and Buy Local Buy Fresh campaigns (marketing & branding) among others.

Rhody Raised Meats. In 2009 and 2010 RIRLA will conduct a feasibility study regarding a potential "Rhody Raised" line of meat products. There are at least two goals associated with "Rhody Raised." The first is to explore the potential to develop a line of products that will provide an income stream for the Association. The second goal is to provide an "umbrella" brand concept that consumers can identify with and desire to support that will strengthen sales and marketing for the individual farmer members as well as the Association.

The Future. The future looks bright for the RI Raised Livestock Association. RIRLA and its members are in a strong position to capitalize on the growing "local food" and "buy local" movements. Rhode Islanders have already proven themselves willing and enthusiastic supporters of RI agricultural products, as evidenced by the very successful line of Rhody Fresh milk products and Little Rhody Natural eggs.

In addition to all the current programs and services the RI Raised Livestock Association now offers, the Association is planning for future initiatives. The potential for a Rhody Raised" line of meat products, produced and marketed by the Association, is currently being explored. Farmer members in 2010 will have the opportunity to explore selling at farmers markets without having to commit to supplying a booth for a full season of attendance. In addition, RIRLA will soon be offering an education and a membership program specifically for consumers.

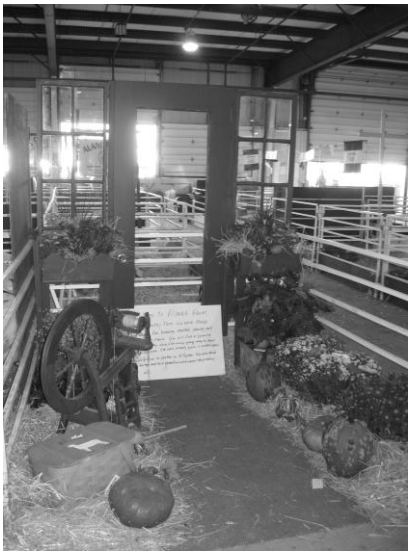
Sheep related magazines which may be of interest to you:

Sheep!
Duck Creek Publications, Inc.
128 East Lake Street, Lake Mills, WI 53551
www.sheepmagazine.com

The Shepherd
5696 Johnston Road
New Washington, OH 44854

The Banner Sheep Magazine
PO Box 500, Cuba, IL 61427 309-785-5058
www.bannersheepmagazine.com

Board member, Irene Nebiker's pen display at the recent Eastern States Exposition, Wool Week Division.



RI Co-op member, John Buffington's pen display at the recent Eastern States Expo. Meat Week Division

WANTED:

MEMBERS TO SERVE ON VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE.

INTERESTED IN THE BLANKET PROJECT, EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS, SKIRTING DEMONSTRATIONS, YOUTH ACTIVITIES?

CALL OUR THE COOPERATIVE'S TELEPHONE "HOTLINE" TODAY AND GET INVOLVED: (401) 578-2012.

Want to get ahead of the game??
Renew your membership now - for next year.
Go to next page and print out.

2010 RI Sheep Co-op

Membership Form

__X__ Enclosed is my **$10.00** check made payable to ***RI Sheep Co-op*** for my 2010 dues.

NAME:_____

FARM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____WEBSITE: _____

_____ **Yes, you can include me in the membership list on the Website.**

_____ **Yes, you can include me in the Directory handout.**

Information for RI Sheep Co-op's Directory:

BREED OF SHEEP WE RAISE:_____

_____

WE HAVE ARTICLES FOR SALE/ SERVICES OFFERED: _____

_____

_____

Make your $10.00 check payable to: **RI Sheep Cooperative**

Mail to**:** **Treasurer**
P.O. Box 88
Harmony, RI 02829