



THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXVII, Issue 2

Website: www.risheep.org

May 2016

Telephone: (401) 578-2012

**** Wool Collection Day ****

Sunday, June 5, 2015

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Where? Maybe Tomorrow Farm
Kevin & Polly Hopkins
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814**

Bring your skirted fleeces and be part of the Rhody Warm Blanket Project.

You don't know how to skirt your fleece? Come, bring your fleeces and we will show you how

You don't want a wool blanket? That's okay, bring your fleeces – the Cooperative is paying the farmers for their wool.

You don't have fleeces to contribute, but want to come? Sure, come join us, help others unload their trucks, help skirt fleeces, pack wool bags and visit with other local sheep farmers.

At 1:00 p.m. there will be a POTLUCK LUNCHEON - all workers are Invited, bring a dish to share and enjoy the company of fellow sheep farmers (and good food)!

Questions: email khop4811@aol.com or call (401) 949-4619
(leave message)



Local Shearers:

***** CALL NOW TO BOOK A SHEARING DATE *****

Aaron Loux, from Massachusetts - tel #: 413-230-8607, email: aaronshearing@gmail.com
shearer of small and large flocks - call now to schedule a shearing date.

Colin Siegmund, from Connecticut - Telephone #: 860-315-7684,
Email colin.siegmund@uconn.edu - University of Connecticut Graduate
shearer of small to medium size flocks, call now to book a date

Sammye Patti (small flocks): from Rhode Island - booking now
Telephone # 401-585-0487 - Please call after 2:30 p.m.
Please leave message if no answer.
4-H member, High School Graduating Senior



Things to Remember:

- *Be there to greet your shearer and assist him/her when needed - do not expect the shearer to shear your sheep when you are not there!
- *Keep your sheep dry-if it rains the day or two before your shearing date, lock them in the barn to keep dry.
- *On shearing day, have your sheep locked in the barn and/or penned up in a small confined area, and ready for shearing.
- *Have a clean, dry, junk-free area for your shearer to work in.
- *Help your shearer get the animal from the pen to the shearing matt.



Questions about skirting your fleece?

Ask your shearer about skirting techniques, how to prepare a better fleece, and what to do to participate in the Rhody Warm Blanket Project. Most shearers can give you pointers to keeping the fleeces clean year round - on and off the sheep - before and after shearing.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT

" RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE"

Editor's notes:

I have included some articles that were in the March newsletter. Since that newsletter was only sent out to members via email, some of you may not have received it and some articles are noteworthy. The Board is looking for a newsletter editor who may have more time and/or interest than our present one ☺ (me). The goal is to send out information to our members two to three times a year. If interested please let me know - there is, of course, a stipend offered for your work. I can help you get started.

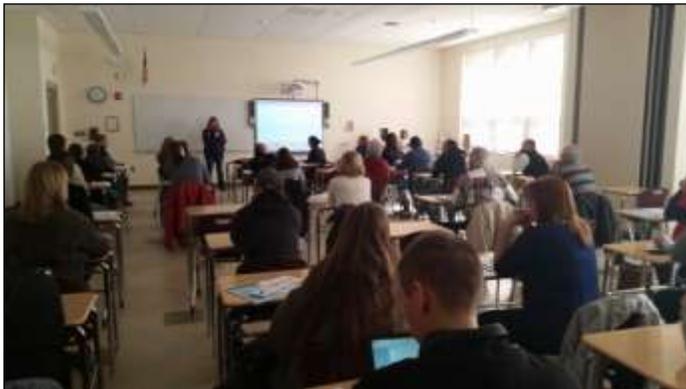
There is lots going on this spring and summer, be sure to check out the list of events further on in this newsletter.

Polly Hopkins

2016 SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND SHEPHERDS' FORUM

The first ever Southern New England Shepherds' Forum held on March 5, 2016 at the Norfolk Ag School in Walpole, Massachusetts, was a great success with over 100 participants attending. The facilities were impressive and the students were very helpful in setting up and organizing this event. Guest speakers were Melanie Barkley, Penn State Extension Specialist and sheep raiser; Dr. Joe Emenheiser, University of Vermont Extension Livestock Specialist; Dr. Rachael Gately, Veterinarian at Tufts University and sheep raiser; Debra Hopkins, Executive Sec/Treas. Continental Dorset Club, professional showman, judge and sheep raiser; Joel Mariacher, professional sheep & alpaca shearer and sheep raiser; and a representative from Wellscroft Fence Systems, gave information on fencing. Brittany Sederback, URI graduate and former 4-Her, organized and ran the Quiz Bowl in the afternoon with prizes for all the participants.

This event was made possible from the sale of Rhody Warm Blankets over the past 10 years. We look forward to organizing another Forum to be held in 2018.



Visit our Facebook page or website for more pictures.

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and pot luck dinner was held on April 9, 2016 at the Chepachet Grange on Route 102/Chopmist Hill Road in Chepachet. A delicious supper was enjoyed by all who attended. The cozy environment of the Grange room made for a comfortable evening for new and renewing members as well visitors and guests. After the annual meeting conducted by President Robin Meek, our guest speaker was introduced. Dr. Katherine Petersson, Animal Scientist, Associate Professor, from the Dept. of Fisheries, Animal & Veterinary Sciences at University of Rhode Island spoke on Sheep Nutrition. She covered sheep needs for all seasons of the year. This was followed by a question and answer period, with one-on-one conversations afterwards. We were pleased to have her join us for the evening.

* * * * *

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE

REMINDER: Members Needed

Again this year, the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative signed up for a vendor spot at the annual Fall Fiber Festival of New England held at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds the first weekend in November. This year's dates are November 5 & 6, 2016. This event gets bigger and better every year ! We are looking for volunteers to help set up booth on Friday, sit in the booth Saturday and/or Sunday. There will be shifts available so everyone has time to shop. Last year, Irene Nebiker was pretty much the sole person in the booth. Lets help her out – volunteer to sit a spell so she can do some shopping! Bring your wheel, needle felting, crocheting or knitting to demonstrate, or just talk to the public to promote our very own *Rhody Warm Blankets* and locally grown *Rhode Island Lamb* !! For more information or for questions about the festival – contact Robin Meek, Tony Patti, Polly Hopkins, Irene Nebiker, or John Buffington.



HELP WANTED:

NEEDED A person to put together newsletters for the RI Sheep Cooperative, will include searching for educational and sheep/meat/wool related articles, notices of the fall and annual meetings, wool collection day info, and other information from members. Small compensation is available. Interested ? Contact Polly Hopkins or Robin Meek.

For updates and information = check out our website:

www.risheep.org

FIBER DANCE CRAFTS FOOD MUSIC

RI Fiber Festival & Craft Fair

**Sat., May 21, 10am-5pm
Coggeshall Farm Museum
1 Colt Drive, Bristol, RI**

Dozens of artisans,
crafters and fiber producers
Sheep shearing and
spinning demonstrations
Performances by Atwater-Donnelly
& Ladies of the Rolling Pin
Wood-fired pizza by The Gilded Tomato
Crafts and games

**coggeshallfarm.org/fiberfestival
info@coggeshallfarm.org
401-253-9062**

SVF Foundation Annual Visitors Day

**WHEN? June 11, 2016 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Free Admission**

WHAT? Learn more about the Smithsonian & SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project and help us celebrate the centennial of Swiss Village

- Peak into our facilities and meet our laboratory, veterinary and animal husbandry staff
- Attend live cryogenics and sheep shearing demonstrations
- Enjoy Julian's Omnibus food truck serving local heritage breed burgers and munchies!
- This event is free to the public.
- Parking will be available at Fort Adams State Park and free trolley transportation will be provided from 9am to 3pm. No parking available at SVF

**SVF FOUNDATION
152 Harrison Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 848-7229
email: info@svffoundation.org
www.svffoundation.org**

Other Local Upcoming Events:



New England Private Treaty Sheep Sale & Used Equipment Auction

July 16, 2016
Held at the Mallary Complex , Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds
West Springfield, Massachusetts visit: www.nesheep.org



North East Youth Sheep Show

July 14-17, 2016
Held at the Mallary Complex, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds
West Springfield, Massachusetts

visit: www.nesheep.org under "Events" for more information

** Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative is a proud sponsor of this event **



Southern RI 4-H Fair

June 24-26, 2016 at Washington County Fairgrounds, Rt 112, Richmond, RI

Visit: <http://srfair.org> or their facebook page for more information

Foster Old Home Days/ northern RI 4-H Fair, Foster Fairgrounds, Foster, RI

July 29-31, 2016

For more information visit: <http://fosteroldhomeday.webs.com> and/or
www.fosterpreservationsociety.org/events.htm

Washington County Fair, Rte 112, Richmond, Rhode Island

August 17 – 21, 2016

Visit: www.washingtoncountyfair-ri.com

Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative is a proud sponsor of the sheep shows at the above fairs



Eastern States Exposition , West Springfield, Massachusetts

September 16, 2016 through October 2, 2016

For more information visit: www.thebig.com

There are sheep shows and related events almost every day of the fair!

Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative is a proud sponsor of the 4-H sheep show



Rhode Island Sheep Coop's Fall Meeting & Pot Luck Supper

October 29, 2016

at the South Foster Fire Station, Route 94 (Mt. Hygeia Rd) Foster, RI
check website later in year for program for the evening.



The Fall Fiber Festival of New England

November 5 and 6, 2016

Held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA

For more information visit: www.thebig.com/ese/fiber-festival/

* Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative is a vendor – promoting local lamb & wool *

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Available for Cooperative Members

The Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative Memorial Scholarship is given awarded annually. This scholarship award was created in 2012 in honor and in memory of those members of the Cooperative who have passed on but have “left their mark” in the sheep and/or wool business in Rhode Island:

Lester “Zeke” Young was a long time Cooperative member, Wool Pool Manager, held the office of President many, many times and was extremely generous in his support of our youth activities. *Ambrose Garvey* was an active member of the Cooperative in his later years, held the office Vice President numerous times, worked on the Rhody Warm Blanket Project from its inception, and encouraged and supported local youth in their sheep projects. *Fred & Barbara Andrews* were also a long time Cooperative members, Fred held the office of President many, many times, both Fred and Barbara worked closely with 4-H kids and their sheep projects, Fred was sheep show superintendent at the Washington County Fair for many years and with Barbara by his side help build the sheep show to what it is today. *Marcus Thompson* had been a member of the Cooperative since the 1950’s, served on the Wool Pool Committee, was a 4-H leader in the 50’s before stepping down only to start another 4-H club in the early 1970’s, was instrumental in the first major addition to the sheep barn at the Foster Fair grounds, supported, promoted and encouraged local youth in sheep projects.

Award: One - \$1,000.00 Scholarship

General Information and Qualifications:

1. Applicant must be an individual or family paid member of the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative.
2. Applicant should be a graduating high school senior, technical school, undergraduate or graduate college student to apply.
3. Applicant must be accepted as an undergraduate or graduate student at a college, university, or technical school.
4. Applicant must provide an official current high school or college transcript with application.
5. Previous applicants who have not received this award, are eligible to re-apply and will be considered as long as they are attending a school of higher education and remain in good standing.
6. Applications must be postmarked by **August 1st of current year**. Applicants will be asked for an interview; and interviews will be scheduled after all applications are received. Date and time to be announced.
7. The Scholarship winner will be announced during the Open Sheep Show at the Washington County Fair in Richmond, Rhode Island, in August.
8. The Scholarship will be awarded in January of following year after applicant sends in an official transcript showing satisfactory performance of fall semester courses (grade average C or better).
9. Should the recipient of this Scholarship fail to meet an academic grade point average of C or better in the semester immediately preceding the award, the Scholarship will be forfeited. If this happens, the recipient has the option of applying again the following year without prejudice.
10. Applications should be send to:
Rhode Island Sheep Co-operative
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 88
Harmony, RI 02829



RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Email: _____

High School: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

College/University/Technical School planning to attend or presently attending: _____

Major: _____ Expected Graduation date: _____

1. Please give summary of your involvement in the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative and how the Cooperative has benefited you.

2. Please describe how sheep have influenced your life?

3. Please provide a summary of your sheep project, to include but not be limited to relate the following: size, number of years involved, skills learned and developed, participation in events related to the sheep, wool and/or meat industries.

4. Please describe your extra-curricular activities and community service activities.

My signature below indicates that all information in this application is factually correct and honestly presented.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Postmark Deadline: August 1st of current year

Mail application to: Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 88
Harmony, RI 02829



From Premier1Supplies ...

Something to watch for this lambing season...

Dehydrated lambs can easily become dead lambs—which results in less lbs produced and less \$\$ in your pocket. It's easy to miss so be aware.



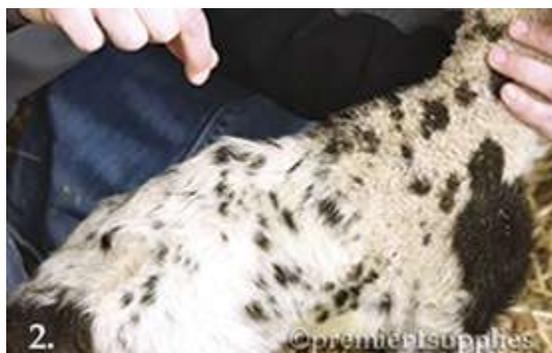
Pinch the skin along the back.

Signs a lamb may be dehydrated:

- Gaunt or not well filled out.
- If a twin, triplet, etc—and its sibling(s) appears healthier and stronger.

To determine if a lamb is dehydrated—

- Pinch the skin along the back. After pinching:
 1. If the skin lays flat, the lamb is not dehydrated.
 2. If the skin stays momentarily tented or peaked, the lamb is dehydrated. Immediately tube the lamb with milk and consult your veterinarian for proper treatment.



After pinching: If the skin stays momentarily tented or peaked, the lamb is dehydrated. Immediately treat the lamb (consult your veterinarian for proper procedure).

Causes of dehydration:

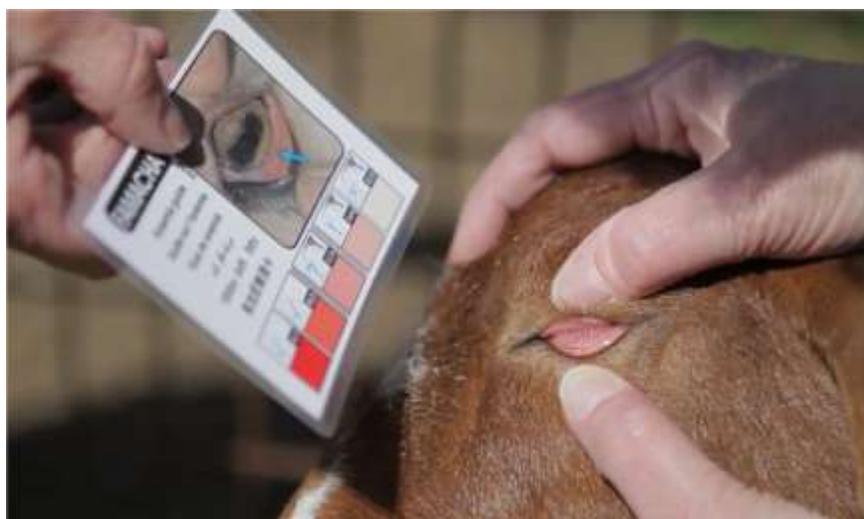
- Scours.
- Ewe lacks adequate milk to support the lamb(s).
- Larger/stronger siblings out-compete their sibling for milk.
- Lamb has sharp teeth so ewe won't let it feed.

If a lamb appears unhealthy but is not dehydrated, **consult your veterinarian.**

Online FAMACHA Certification

Use of the FAMACHA® system allows small ruminant producers to make deworming decisions based on an estimate of the level of anemia in sheep and goats associated with barber pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) infection. The barber pole worm is the most economically important parasite affecting sheep and goat production on pasture and the most common cause of anemia during the grazing season in most of the U.S. It has a small “tooth” that lacerates the animal’s stomach (abomasum) wall, and it feeds on the blood that is released. This can result in anemia, (reduction below normal in the number of red cells in the blood) and in severe cases, death.

The FAMACHA® card, developed in South Africa, was introduced to the U.S. by the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (www.acsrpc.org). It is a tool that matches the color of the eye mucous membranes of small ruminants with a laminated color chart showing 5 color categories that correspond to different levels of anemia. Category 1 represents “not anemic” with category 5 representing “severely anemic.” The FAMACHA® system uses the scores determined with the card to identify and selectively deworm sheep and goats with anemia. Selective deworming minimizes drug use and slows the development of drug resistant GIN parasites. It can also aid in selective breeding decisions by identifying those animals that are most susceptible to barber pole worm infection.



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 FAMACHA® Scoring*. Visit our website, <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/video> to access these videos. The videos can be viewed in sections at your own pace. Complete an online post–video summary administered through SurveyMonkey. Email project staff (see bottom of page for contact information) to obtain the link to the summary and to notify when you have completed it. Project staff will review responses to the online post–video summary and follow up with producers if any clarification is needed.

2. Practice the COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP! technique demonstrated in the online video, *Why and How To Do FAMACHA® Scoring*. This technique allows you to correctly use your FAMACHA® card for anemia scoring. To mimic a FAMACHA® card, cut an index card or other stiff paper or cardboard to 3.5 X 4.5 inches. Using a red marker, draw a thick (1/2 inch) red line on the long side of the card.

3. Make and email us a video demonstrating your mastery of the COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP! technique following the instructions below:

- You will need help making the video, so enlist a friend or family member.
 - To start – introduce yourself to us by stating your name, date and that you are demonstrating the proper handling of the animals for FAMACHA® scoring.
 - Demonstrate the correct procedure on a sheep or goat. Make sure that you zoom in to provide an easy to see close-up of the COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP! technique on both eyes. Proper exposure of the eye mucous membranes must be evident from the video. An easy way to tell if you are using enough pressure when you COVER and PUSH is that you should see that the eyelashes of the upper eyelid are curling up over your thumb.
 - Hold the card next to the mucous membranes and state whether the color is darker than, lighter than or the same color as the red line on your card.
 - Be sure to demonstrate the technique in natural light and be careful that you do not shade the eyes with your body while exposing the membranes and remember to do both eyes.
 - Repeat the procedure on a second sheep or goat.
4. Project staff will follow up through phone and/or email, as needed, to discuss and ensure proper technique. Live video sessions using Skype™ or FaceTime can be utilized when needed. Upon completing the 4–step online training program listed above, the participant will receive a Certificate of Competence in the use of the FAMACHA® anemia scoring system. The certificate will enable participants to purchase a FAMACHA® card through the University of Rhode Island (contact information below).

The price of the FAMACHA® card is subject to change. The current cost for each card is \$13.00 and can be paid using cash or a check made payable to: ***The University of Rhode Island***. Payment can be mailed to: Attn: Holly Burdett, URI Cooperative Extension, 120 Flagg Road, CBLS Room 383, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Contacts for Online FAMACHA® Certification:

Holly Burdett, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension

Email: hburdett@uri.edu , Phone: (401)874–2249, 120 Flagg Road, CBLS Room 383, Kingston, RI 02881

Dr. Katherine Petersson, PhD, Animal Scientist and Project Leader

Dept. Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science, University of Rhode Island

Email: kpetersson@uri.edu , Phone: (401)874–2951, 120 Flagg Road, CBLS Room 177, Kingston, RI

For more information about the FAMACHA© System, view our fact sheet:

http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/files/FAMACHA-Scoring_Final.pdf

and visit the American consortium of Small Ruminant Parasite Control website:

<http://www.wormx.info/#!famacha/c9j>

For more information about this online education program, as well as opportunities for assistance with selective breeding for parasite resistance, visit our project page – *New Approaches for Improving Integrated Parasite Control Strategies for Small Ruminants in the Northeast*.

<http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/parasite-control/>

* * *

This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program Project LNE15–342, and USDA NIFA Hatch Project 1007290.

* * * * *

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

Like "URI Small Ruminant Parasite Control Program" on Facebook! For regular updates on resources and events on small ruminant parasite control. <https://www.facebook.com/urisrpc/>