



The Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative

March 2018 Newsletter

Website: www.risheep.org

Telephone: (401) 578 - 2012

****It's that time again... Call early to book a shearing date!****

Aaron Loux- From Massachusetts

(Contact: 413-230-8607 or aaronshearing@gmail.com)

Shearer of small and large flocks

Melissa Higgins- From Connecticut

(Contact: 860-966-9264 or
ctsheepshearer@gmail.com)

Shearer of all sized flocks

Colin Siegmund- From Connecticut

(Contact: 860-315-7684 or
colin.siegmund@uconn.edu)

Shearer of medium and large flocks-

Sammye Patti- From Rhode Island

(Contact: 401-585-0487)

Shearer of small flocks



Important to Remember:

- ❖ Be there to greet your shearer & assist 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 them dry.
- ❖ On shearing day, have your sheep confined in a barn or small area that is easily accessible. Be time efficient!
- ❖ Have a clean, dry, open area for your shearer to work in.
- ❖ Assist your shearer in moving your animal from the pen to the mat.

KEEP IN MIND: 2018 WOOL COLLECTION DAY IS JUNE 10!

(More details coming soon!)

2018 Southern New England Shepherds Forum

This year's Southern New England Shepherds Forum was held on March 3, 2018 at the Norfolk Agricultural School in Walpole, Massachusetts. The Forum was a success with over 50 attendees and guest speakers present!



Guest speakers were Matt Best, owner of Best Shearing Services & sheep raiser; Rosalyn Price English, owner of Price English Marketing Group; Dr. Rachael Gately DVM, Veterinarian at Tufts University & sheep raiser; Debra Hopkins, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Continental Dorset Club, sheep breeder & professional showman and judge; Bonnie Kegler; Connecticut high school teacher & sheep breeder; Bryan Mason, sheep raiser/breeder & well



respected judge; Dr. Katherine Petersson, Associate professor at the University of Rhode Island & project leader for FAMANCHA parasite control in small ruminant trainings; and Mike Wright, Vice President and New England Director of the Continental Dorset Club & sheep raiser/breeder.

The adult program featured presentations on "Fecal Analysis" with Dr. Katherine Peterrson, "Ram Care & Semen Fertility Checking" with Dr. Rachel Gately, "Maximizing Wool Profit" with Matt Best and "Marketing Your Sheep and Wool" with Rosalyn Price English. The youth program consisted of presentations on "Fitting Sheep; Slick Shearing" with Bryan Mason & Mike Wright, "Sheep Record Keeping" with Debra Hopkins and "Breeding Sheep and Market Lamb Judging" with Bonnie Keglar. There were 16 participants in the Youth Quiz Bowl, which was organized and presented by Brittany Sederback. Thank you to all who attended and participated!

SVF Foundation Annual Visitors Day

June 16, 2018 (9:00AM to 3:00PM)

Where: SVF Foundation
152 Harrison Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 848-7229



The SVF Foundation is holding their Annual Visitors day on June 16, 2018 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. At this event you can learn more about the Smithsonian and SVF biodiversity preservation project. Peak into the facilities and meet the laboratory, veterinary, and animal husbandry staff. Attend live cryogenics and sheep shearing demonstrations. While visiting meet “Chip”, a rare Tennessee mytonic goat born from a frozen embryo and learn about other endangered breeds of livestock!

Event is free to the public, parking available at Fort Adams State Park and there is free trolley transportation from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. No parking available at SVF.

For more information on the SVF Foundation and SVF events, visit

www.svffoundation.org.



SVF FOUNDATION

2018 Rhode Island Fiber Festival & Craft Fair

May 19, 2018 (10AM to 4PM)

Where: Coggeshall Farm Museum

1 Colt Drive, Bristol, RI 02809

Admission: *(Weekend Rate)*

Adults: \$7.00 / Seniors: \$5.00

Children (3-12yrs): \$5.00

Children under 3yrs: Free

(Cash, Checks & Charge accepted)



Coggeshall Farm is a living history museum that reflects the lives of tenant farmers in the late 1700's. Come to the annual Rhode Island Fiber Festival and Craft Fair to observe craft demonstrations, purchase handcrafted items & natural fibers, and watch a master sheep shearer at work on Coggeshall's own Gulf Coast Natives. Old fashioned games, kids' crafts, dance performances, acoustic music and great local food complete the scene. For more information please visit www.coggeshallfarm.org.

For information on becoming a vendor or sponsor, please contact Eleanor Langham at e.langham@coggeshallfarm.org.

The registration deadline to become a vendor is May 1, 2018!

Recipient of the R.I. Sheep Cooperative Memorial Scholarship 2017

Congratulations to Faith Belleavoine of Chepachet, Rhode Island, on winning the 2017 RISC \$1000.00 Memorial Scholarship. Faith was a member of the Aries 4-H Club and started her sheep project when she was 9 years old. Faith chose the Colored Lincoln as her breed of choice. In her application she reported how she learned so much about the health, safety and responsibility of raising animals. Faith also stated how going to sheep shows and being a member of the 4-H Club helped her to overcome her shyness and now in college is comfortable being called on in class and giving presentations. Faith is still active in the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative and says she looks forward to bagging wool at Wool Collection Day, something she has done since she joined 4-H and the Cooperative. This year Faith also met customers to pick up the blankets in December so all had them in time for Christmas. Faith was a life guard in high school, and has gone on to be a member of the winning swim team at the University of New England in Maine, where she majors in Medical Biology. Congratulations, Faith! Keep up the good work!



Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative Memorial Scholarship

(Available for Cooperative Members)

--- AWARD: One- \$1,000.00 Scholarship ---

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



Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative
Memorial Scholarship

Name: _____ . **Age:** _____ .

Address: _____ .

_____ .

Telephone No.: _____ . **Email:** _____ .

High School: _____ . **Graduation Date:** _____ .

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

Major: _____ . **Expected Graduation Date:** _____ .

1. Please give a summary of you 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 1, 2018

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



RHODY WARM BLANKETS

The Rhody Warm Blanket project was once again a success this year. Although we had the smallest amount of wool collected, we still have blankets available- get your while they last!!

This year's pattern, a striped blanket, is called the "*Slatersville*" edition. It's a very different pattern from years past, but has been very well received by our customers and farmers as well. If you are interested in getting one, we still have most sizes available. Please contact Robin or Polly for more details. (We will be happy to bring your order to the annual meeting).



Plans are in the works for the next blanket, collection day will be held either the first or second weekend in June. As you probably know we coordinate our shipping with the Connecticut Sheep Breeders and Worcester County Sheep breeders groups, & all plans have not been finalized at this point. Keep checking our website (calendar page) for the official date and place for the collecting of wool. In the meantime, call your shearer now and book a date for shearing (please note local shears listed on previous pages). Get your sheep sheared before June so that your wool will be ready.

Should you have questions about the Cooperative's blanket project or how you can participate or your fleeces/wool in general- please contact Polly or Robin for more information!

2018 Rhody Warm “Name the Blanket” Contest

Purpose: The purpose of this contest is to choose a name for the next edition of the Rhody Warm Blanket and honoring a Lost Village of Rhode Island.

Rules:

- Open to any Rhode Island youth (18 years old or younger.)
- Entries must be post marked by October 15, 2018.
- All entries shall be submitted in typed form on 8 ½ x 11 paper, double space, shall be no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words.
- A cover page with writer’s name, address, telephone number, age and email address is required. No report covers, binders or folders will be accepted.
- The winning essay will be used in the commentary describing the Lost Village in the next blanket brochure. Committee reserves the right to edit the winning essay to fit space allowed in the brochure.
- Winning essay writer will be recognized in the blanket brochure.
- Winning essay writer will be notified by phone before being posted on the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative’s website (www.risheep.org), and announced by press releases.
- Winner will receive Kindle Fire and a Lap Throw

Criteria: The contestant shall choose a ‘Lost Village’ in Rhode Island to write an essay on. Essay shall be no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words and shall include the history of the village, what it was known for (i.e. mill production, stagecoach stop, etc.), and how it became a ‘Lost Village’. A ‘Lost Village’ is considered to be a village that was abandoned, destroyed or is not known to most people today. Contestants should include sources of information (i.e. authors, interviews, title of books, etc.) either by reference within the essay or by footnote.

The following are Villages honored in the past: 2017: Slatersville, 2016: Huntsville, 2015: Ramtail, 2014: Nooseneck Village, 2013: Hanton City, 2012: Little Rest, 2011: Richmond, 2010: Ashland, 2009: Rockland, 2008: Kent, 2007: South Situate, 2006: Inaugural Edition

Essays shall be sent to: *Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative
(Attn: Essay Contest)
PO Box 88.
Harmony, RI 02829*

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE
2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is my \$10.00 check made payable to *RI Sheep Co-op* for my 2018 dues.

NAME: _____

FARM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____ WEBSITE: _____

_____ Yes, please include me in the Membership List on the RI Sheep Cooperative's website.

_____ Yes, please include my farm's information in the Rhode Island Sheep Co-op's directory.

My information for the Directory:

BREED(S) OF SHEEP WE RAISE: _____

WE HAVE ARTICLES FOR SALE/ SERVICES OFFERED: _____

Mail to: **Treasurer**

RI Sheep Cooperative

P.O. Box 88

Harmony, RI 02829

**** MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED BY MAY 15, 2018 WILL BE INCLUDED IN 2018 DIRECTORY ****