



## THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXII, Issue 1

February 2011

Website: [www.risheep.org](http://www.risheep.org)

Telephone: (401) 578-2012

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\* COME JOIN US \*\***

### **Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative ANNUAL MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER**

**Saturday March 26, 2011**

**South Foster Fire Station**

**Rt 94 (Mt. Hygeia Road), Foster, R.I.**

**Doors open at 5:00 P.M.**

**Pot Luck Dinner served at 6:00 P.M.**

**Annual Meeting and Program immediately after**

Our Pot Luck Dinner and Annual Meeting is open to anyone interested in sheep and/or wool. You need not be a member to come, but once you meet the members (and enjoy the meal) -you will want to join! The doors of the South Foster Fire Station hall will be open at 5:00 p.m. Come early and help set up the tables and chairs, and mingle with the members. This is for the experienced as well as the novice sheep farmer. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 p.m. with the Annual Meeting to follow. Agenda for the annual meeting will include Secretary report, Treasurer year end report, reports from Chairpersons of the various committees of the organization, announcement upcoming events, and election of officers for the coming year. Following the meeting, we are happy to have as our guest speaker, Sarah Bowley who is the Program and Livestock Manager at the SVF Foundation. SVF Foundation is a private, non-profit farm in Newport, Rhode Island, focused on the preservation of endangered breeds of livestock. They work to collect and cryopreserve the genetics of rare breeds of North American cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. For the past nine years SVF has worked with several critically endangered breeds of sheep including Cotswold, Jacob, Santa Cruz, Hog Island, CVM and Gulf Coast. Sarah's power point presentation will provide an overview of SVF's scientific mission and describe some of the important

characteristics of these rare breeds which make them so important to preserve.

So mark your calendars!! Bring a large dish to share (drinks and dessert are provided) and bring an item for the silent auction (funds raised will go towards 4-H sheep activities). Enjoy an evening with old and new "sheepy" friends.

Questions? Contact President Polly Hopkins 949-4619 (evenings) or email: [khop4811@aol.com](mailto:khop4811@aol.com) .

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RHODY WARM BLANKET PROJECT**

The R.I. Sheep Co-op still has throws and blankets available in the "Ashland Edition" (the new blankets). Members of the Cooperative can purchase these at a discount price, even if you did not pool wool last year, either to keep for yourself or resell to a profit for you. For more information email [rhodywarm@yahoo.com](mailto:rhodywarm@yahoo.com) or call the RI Sheep Cooperative telephone # 578-2012. Arrangements can be made to pick up at Brenda's office or Polly's house.



Plans are in the works for Wool Collection Day set for the first weekend in June (it has not been determined at the time of this writing whether it will be Saturday or Sunday. It will be announced at the annual meeting, in next newsletter

and on the website. Contact your shearer now to schedule an appointment to get your sheep sheared. Look for announcements of various skirting demonstrations and collection day(s), to refresh you memory on preparing a good fleece and to drop off your wool and order your next edition of the Rhody Warm Blanket. Questions? Contact a Rhody Warm Committee Member or Co-op Board member.

The Sheep Cooperative was set up as a vendor at the Kenyon Grist Mill Harvest Festival last October and at the first annual Fall Fiber Festival of New England held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in November. This exposure was well received by the general public. The Cooperative sold some blankets and representatives talked with lots of people about our

unique project to help the sheep farmers in Rhode Island. This spring a display will be set up at the Coggeshall Farm's Wool and Fiber Festival in May. Volunteers are welcome and are needed to man this booth as well as others throughout the year. Call Brenda, the Blanket Chair, to get involved @ 401-578-2012.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FROM OUR STATE VET.....**

“The world is getting smaller.” That is a phrase that we hear all the time. We all realize that the globe is not shrinking, but that advances in transportation and communications have removed many of the barriers that existed, and every day, more old barriers fall. We all recognize that international travel and movement of commodities is quite commonplace.

With the world getting smaller, it is obviously an advantage to global commerce, to maintaining personal contacts, and to industries that support movement of people, information, and commodities. However, there are some drawbacks.

One significant drawback from an agricultural perspective is that the risk of introduction of a foreign animal disease (FAD) increases as movement of animals, animal products, and people increase. In the last two years for instance, there have been two FAD outbreaks involving horses. Contagious Equine Metritis, and Equine Piroplasmiasis have been diagnosed in the United States and significant efforts have been made to contain and control this outbreak. Fortunately, neither of these diseases spread very quickly and as a result of that, containment was achieved relatively quickly. However, due to their presence there have been restrictions on horse movement, both interstate and internationally. This has obviously had a negative effect on the equine industry in this country.

For sheep producers, the most significant FAD is foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Animal health professionals consider this disease the “granddaddy of them all.” It is a viral disease that spreads very easily between animals and can be spread to different farms by aerosol routes as well as on contaminated clothing, on people themselves, and on contaminated equipment and vehicles. This disease affects all cloven-hooved animals. It generally does not cause a high level of animal death in a flock, but it does result in very significant losses to producers. Arguably, the biggest threat of the disease is to animal industry because once a country is considered infected with the disease, other countries will place trade sanctions on animals originating from that country until the global community can be assured that the disease has been

eradicated. Eradication efforts generally result in large numbers of animals, most of which are apparently healthy, being slaughtered. (This is analogous to controlling a wildfire by cutting down the forest ahead of the fire's advance.) Eradication efforts, control efforts, and the sanctions that are placed on an infected country can devastate animal agriculture in that country to a point where it may take decades to recover.

Currently, there are active outbreaks of FMD in South Korea, Bulgaria, and Libya. Japan had an outbreak last year and they are working toward regaining disease free status. The last outbreak in the US was in 1929. The last outbreak in Europe (prior to Bulgaria) was in 2001 in the UK, however there was an "incident" several years ago that was rapidly contained and did not result in the widespread slaughter of animals that occurred in 2001. (This incident was alleged to be the result of release of a vaccine strain from a manufacturer.) Please keep two things in mind: first is that the disease is probably in more countries than we know about and is either not being diagnosed or reported for various reasons, and second, that movement of people and animals occurs at an exponentially greater rate than they did in 1929, the year of our last outbreak. One other point to make is that regardless of the risk of natural spread of this disease, there is also a potential for this agent to be used in an act of agricultural bioterrorism, as the impact it would have on our economy should be evident.

So, I would like to take this opportunity, not to frighten you, but to bring your attention to practices that you can take to improve biosecurity on your farm. In very general terms know who is coming onto your farm. Don't allow people who may have been in contact with any sick animals to have contact with yours. This may include people who have recently spent time on a farm in a foreign country. Practices that are not specific to FADs would be to isolate any new additions to the flock and observe for signs of disease before introducing them to your animals. (Many of the same practices that will prevent infection of FMD will prevent orf.) Minimize commingling of animals at shows and other events, and isolate animals that you brought to shows before reintroducing them into your flock. Discuss specific vaccination protocols with your veterinarian to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. Finally, and most importantly, report any suspicious disease to the State Veterinarian as soon as you discover it. By doing so, in the unlikely event that you do have a FAD, it can be more likely to be contained before being spread.

Questions?? Contact Scott N. Marshall, DVM, State Veterinarian, Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management, Division of

Agriculture/Animal Health, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767, telephone # 401-222-2781

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Marshall is asking that we all do our part to maintain Rhode Island as a low-risk state for Scrapie. In order for Rhode Island to remain classified as low-risk we need to submit tissue for testing from eight (8) adult sheep that die. The testing and sample collection are all done free of charge. Please call Scott Marshall, DVM at (401) 222-2781 during regular hours, or (401) 222-3070 (DEM Environmental Police Dispatch will contact him) out of regular hours, if you have a sheep that you wish to have tested.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY (“ASI”) NEWS**

ASI is a national trade organization supported by 45 state sheep associations, benefiting the interests of more than 82,000 sheep producers.

Check out their website at [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org)

And for other sheep news around the country check out the Sheep Industry News at: <http://www.sheepindustrynews.org>

### **Wal-Mart Carrying American Lamb**

Wal-Mart announced that all 40 distribution centers are now committed to carrying domestic lamb through 2012. The switch from partial-imported product to 100-percent American grown is welcome support for the U.S. lamb industry. “Wal-Mart is committed to building its lamb program and stocking consistent cuts of fresh American lamb year round”, said Megan Wortman, executive director of the American Lamb Board (ALB). “We’ve been working hard to get lamb on shoppers’ radars, and having the support of this nationwide retailer helps immensely.” Wal-Mart sent out a Request for Quotes in early November. The program will be supplied through Superior Farms and Mountain States Rosen, both ALB members. “As retailers supply more domestic and local products, our ranchers are feeling optimistic about the industry”, said Greg Ahart, director of producer relations for Superior Farms. “This really helps make small family farming sustainable.” The suppliers and ALB will be working closely with Wal-Mart to provide materials and information for its lamb category. Recipes and industry news can be found at [www.americanlamb.org](http://www.americanlamb.org).

### **WOOL EXCELLENCE AWARD GIVEN AT ASI CONVENTION**

A longtime member of the U.S. wool industry was recognized for his years of service during the Wool Recognition Lunch at the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI)/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention on January 20. Angus McColl, owner of Yocom-McColl

Testing Laboratories Inc., Denver, Colo., was this year's deserving recipient of this industry award. McColl graduated from the University of Wyoming after immigrating to the United States from Scotland where he was involved in family farming operations. Yocom-McColl Testing Laboratories Inc. was formed in 1963 by Angus McColl and Ira Yocom as an independent wool and animal-fiber testing facility and utilizes American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) procedures and methods when testing fibers. The lab operates on both Sirolan LaserScan and OFDA100 instruments for the measurement of fiber diameter and distribution. McColl has been actively involved in developing equipment for raw wool in a commercial testing laboratory environment and has promoted correlation testing in the textile industry. He is currently a member of ASTM D13-13 wool committee and has represented the United States at annual technical meetings of the IWTO. Over the years, Yocom-McColl helped to develop new standards by measuring wool, mohair, cashmere, llama and alpaca samples to support acceptance of ASTM testing methods written by Robert Stobart, Ph.D., University of Wyoming (ASTM 6466-99 for LaserScan); and Christopher Lupton, Ph.D., Texas A&M University (ASTM 6500-00 for OFDA100).

*"Over the years, Angus' bread and butter has been sampling core-tested wools for clean yield and average fiber diameter ... I've always been impressed with Angus' interest in research and technology and his willingness to participate in research projects",* said award presenter, Lupton. Through McColl's dedication and integrity, he has helped the wool industry throughout North America, as was evidence by the words offered in recognition during the awards banquet. Rick Powers, trading manager at Lempriere USA Inc., said that his company and the industry cannot thank McColl enough for his work. *"Without his testing house, our business would completely stop. I just want to thank Angus for his dedication over the years",* Powers related. *"It's a humbling effect to have your peers think so highly of you,"* McColl said upon receiving the award. *"It's almost been 50 years that I have been in fiber, and it's been an honor working with the wool industry."*

### **Sheep Foot Health Project**

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is partnering with other northeast states to recruit sheep flocks for a new SARE-funded Sheep Foot Health Project. The purpose of the project is to help producers eliminate footrot from their flocks and keep it from reoccurring. Visit the Sheep Foot Health Project website at <http://umaine.edu/sheep> to learn more about the project and the benefits and requirements of flock participation. An application packet is available on the website. All information submitted by

participants about their flock and farm will be held in strict confidence. Though only a limited number of sheep flocks can be active participants in the project, all sheep and goat producers will benefit from the educational programs and materials that the Sheep Foot Health Project will generate in the next several years. Footrot is one of the most insidious diseases affecting sheep and goats. It is both preventable and curable. It presents itself as lame sheep, sheep that kneel to graze and sheep with hoof separation.

The following paragraphs and information are from the website <http://umaine.edu/sheep> - visit that website for further information and application packet.

**University of Maine Cooperative Extension** is seeking individuals in the Northeast who have managed sheep with and without foot rot problems to participate in the **Sheep Foot Health Project**. Selected farmers will be equipped with the appropriate tools and skills to collect data from their flock. Accurate records are a requirement. All information submitted by participants about their flock and farm will be held in confidence. No farm names or individual's names will be used when researchers report their findings.

#### **Eliminating the Effects of Footrot on Sheep Flocks in the Northeast**

The Northeast is home to millions of lamb consumers. However, significant barriers exist to the profitability of sheep, including key animal health issues. Footrot has been identified as a main reason sheep farmers are forced out of business. Footrot is a highly contagious disease that requires relentless treatment using persistent hoof trimming, foot bathing, customized vaccines, and other management practices. These efforts require considerable time and money. Sheep Foot Health Project will educate producers about the causes, treatment, management, and preventative techniques, including the use of genetic selection to generate footrot-free flocks. A unique integrated approach of foot management, selection for resistance, and documentation of genetic markers will allow breeders to eliminate footrot. Producers who are selected to participate in the Sheep Foot Health Project will learn the techniques for assessment, scoring, and record keeping of foot health. They will also learn how to create and implement a customized biosecurity plan, an important tool in preventing the disease. An experienced research team will evaluate and score the feet of at least 200 sheep from participating farms and collect blood samples. DNA from these samples will be evaluated for predictive markers of footrot resistance. Resistance in these sheep will be tested by documenting absence of footrot lesions in the presence of footrot organisms. Selection for resistance will reduce producers' costs and make them less dependent on chemicals. There is no immediate deadline for sheep producers in the Northeast to apply to participate in this on-farm research project. However, applications received during the winter months (December 2010 to February 2011) will have a better chance of being selected for 2011. The research team will select ten (10) farms

for participation in 2011, and ten more farms for 2012. Farm visits will begin once air temperatures are greater than 45 degrees F. **For more information, contact** Richard Brzozowski, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300, [richard.brzozowski@maine.edu](mailto:richard.brzozowski@maine.edu) or 207-780-4205.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LAMB BOARD**



***Kickin' Off Lamb Lover's Month*** . The American Lamb

Board is calling all lamb lovers to heat up the kitchen with the launch of [www.LambLoversMonth.com](http://www.LambLoversMonth.com). Whether fans of lamb are on the hunt for lambtastic recipes, from a show-stopping rack to a tender loving loin, want to taste chef's best lamb recipes, watch Lambassador Chef Tim Love cook up swoon-worthy recipes or share their own, this new website is a one stop shop for the love of lamb. A number of promotional activities are taking place to promote Lamb Lovers Month including online advertising, retail on pack lamb lover's labels, a lamb lovers radio tour and the "Recipes for Romance" contest. From February 1- 28, lamb lovers can submit their own tried-and-true dishes to the American Lamb Board's "Recipes for Romance" contest. The most heart-warming recipe will win a lambtastic monthly date night dinner package that includes four different dinners each featuring a ewe-nique cut of American Lamb. Every fan of lamb that submits a recipe will receive a Lamb Lovers apron. To participate in the contest please visit [www.LambLoversMonth.com](http://www.LambLoversMonth.com).

The American Lamb Board is kicking off its new *Shepherd to Chef Campaign* at a media event in NYC on February 7th. Four chefs and four shepherds from the American Lamb Board's target markets (Boston, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Seattle) will come together to prepare a four-course lamb dinner and educate Food Media about all things lamb including cut education and production practices.

In the January Chef Magazine online issue, two American Lamb recipes and images were featured in an article titled "*Silk Purses*". The article is about underutilized cuts of meat and the recipes introduced are Balsamic & Rosemary Scented American Lamb Kabobs and Pacific Rim Mushrooms Stuffed with Lamb. In the February issue of Sunset Magazine, Lava Lakes Lamb is included in an article on the top 100 ideas, people, places and things that are making life in the West better right now. The article featured a two page spread of Lava Lake's beautiful pastures and sheep and highlights the company's passion for sustainability and conservation.

January was a busy month for Lamb Lovers in the Boston Area! There were a couple ewe-nique events hosted by the American Lamb Board. The American Lamb & American Whiskey tasting at Russell House Tavern on January 5th housed around 55 people. Boston's

Lambassador, Chef Michael Scelfo, and the Russell House team served up 6 American Lamb dishes paired with Hudson Whiskey cocktails. On January 24th, an American Lamb Cooking Class at Boston's Center for Adult Education was also put on by Chef Scelfo of Russell House Tavern, brewer Dann Paquette of Pretty Things Beer & Ale and shepherd Lisa Dachigner of River Valley Farm for an evening of brews and ewes.



Recipe and image provided by the American Lamb Board

### **Table for Two Lamb Loin Chops with Madeira and Cherries**

*2 servings*

*Preparation time: 15 minutes*

*Marinate time: 2 hours*

*Cook time: 20 minutes*

- 4 American Lamb loin chops, cut 1-1/4-inch thick, trimmed
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2-1/2 teaspoons dried tarragon leaves, crushed, divided
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1/3 cup Madeira sweet wine or fat-free chicken broth
- 1/3 cup dried cherries, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup fat-free chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon peel (additional peel for garnish)
- 1 tablespoon butter, cut in half

In small bowl, whisk together lemon juice, 1 tablespoon oil, 1-1/2 teaspoons tarragon, garlic, salt and pepper. Place lamb chops in sealable plastic bag and pour in marinade. Rotate bag to coat chops. Refrigerate for 2 hours to marinate. Remove chops from marinade and discard marinade. Pat chops dry with paper towels. In large nonstick skillet with cover, heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat. Brown chops for 2 minutes on each side. Cover and reduce heat to low. Cook for 12 to 15 minutes, turning twice, or until desired degree of doneness. Remove from pan, cover and let stand for 10 minutes. Pour off liquid from pan. Add Madeira and cherries; cook 3 to 4 minutes until liquid is almost absorbed. Stir in broth, remaining 1 teaspoon of tarragon and lemon peel; cook additional 2 minutes. Mix in butter and stir until sauce looks shiny. Serve sauce on plates and top with two lamb chops, garnish with grated lemon peel.

*Nutrition per serving: 571 calories, 30 g protein, 9 g carbohydrates, 41 g total fat, (65% calories from fat), 120 mg cholesterol, 0.44 g fiber, 1111 mg sodium, 8 mg niacin, 0.17 mg vitamin B6, 2.64 mcg vitamin B12, 3 mg iron, 4 mg zinc.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program  
Organic Initiative (EQIP)**

**DEADLINE : March 4, 2011**

The EQIP Organic Initiative is available for Rhode Island farmers who are certified organic, transitioning to certified organic, or organic exempt according to USDA's National Organic Program regulations. Experimenting with cover crops and crop rotations, installing intensive grazing infrastructure (grazing plans, internal fencing, walkways, water lines), establishing wildlife and pollinator friendly habitat, and installing seasonal high tunnels are examples of conservation practices for which funding may be available under this program. In addition, states offer Conservation Activity Plans that support conservation planning for organic agriculture. Farmers should contact the Rhode Island Service Center for more information and to determine eligibility.

Call 401-822-8848, E-mail [NRCInfo@ri.usda.gov](mailto:NRCInfo@ri.usda.gov) , or visit at 60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46, Warwick, RI 02886. Application info available at <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/APPLICATION.pdf>.

**\$1.3 Million Available RI Farm Service Agency  
(FSA) County Office**

The RI Farm Service Agency has \$1,393,000 available to lend beginning farmers to purchase a farm or to make improvements to an existing farm. Call 1-800-551-5144 or 401-828-3120 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Save \$\$ @ TWIST OF FATE SPINNERY**

Avoid the 2011 price increases! All fiber received through February 28, 2011 from Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative Members will be billed at the 2010 rate! That's a savings of up to 15%. Call or email today to take advantage of these savings! TWIST OF FATE now offers clipper blade sharpening and livestock show supplies.

Contact Jeremiah or Rick at Twist of Fate Spinnery, LLP, 194 Rose Hill Road, Portland, Connecticut 06480, Telephone: 860-759-9334 or 860-759-9335 or email them at: [twistoffatespinnery@yahoo.com](mailto:twistoffatespinnery@yahoo.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**April 9, 2011 "Get to Know the Animals"** presented by Aries 4-H Club at the Apple Villa Hardware on Route 44 in Chepachet.

This group will run an informative and interactive event with animals (sheep, rabbits and chicks), food and fun!

## **Vacuum Milking a Small Farm Flock**

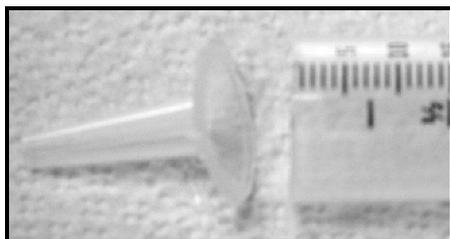
*The following was forwarded to me by a fellow member of the cooperative – courtesy of the Treasure Valley Sheep Producers.*

*This site also other educational information: <http://www.tvsp.org> .*

This is a simple home-made vacuum milker that even a novice farmer can use. This milker will only cost a couple of dollars and make milking easy. When we wean lambs or have a ewe that lost their lambs, we milk the ewe for colostrum or milk to help in the current lambing season or another year. The saved and frozen milk are an investment that maximizes next year lamb crop. A vacuum is one of the key components to promoting milk flow. It has been shown repeatedly that higher milking vacuum will result in higher milk flow rates and lower labor time.

Purchase a syringe to fit the size of the animal you are milking. 60ml syringes are good for sheep and goats. Smaller syringes would be good for cats and dogs. Disassemble your syringe. Cut the end off the syringe. Use a knife to smooth the inside edge of the tube so the plunger can be inserted into the tube from the top end off of the syringe. You now have a new sheep vacuum milker for less than \$2.00.

Simply place the vacuum milker over the animal's teat and seat softly against the skin. Now pull back slowly on the plunger and watch the milk flow.



Note from Jim Hiemstra, TVSP Webmaster: We just added live sheep video cameras, our small flock will be lambing January 28 to March 1, 2011. Come take a look! Email: [info@tvsp.org](mailto:info@tvsp.org)  
Website: <http://www.tvsp.org>

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RI RAISED LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION**

The Board of Directors of RIRLA has informed its members that Kim Ziegelmayr is no longer serving as Director of RIRLA. RIRLA is grateful for the valuable services Kim has provided in her position, and wishes

her the best in her future endeavors. During this transition time, there will be a new email address: [RIRaised@gmail.com](mailto:RIRaised@gmail.com). All mailed paper documents, checks, correspondence, processing forms, and membership applications should be sent to: RIRLA, PO Box 640, North Scituate, RI 02857. RIRLA assures us that services will continue without disruption and that there will be no lapses in the processing/scheduling service. Patrick McNiff will act as the interim contact person for scheduling and they plan to have a permanent schedule coordinator in place shortly. If you have any questions during this transition time, please feel free to call Mr. McNiff at 401-413-9770 or you can also continue to contact RIRLA at their phone number: 401-575-3348.

**FarmHack Invention Blogs**

FarmHack is a resource for farmers who embrace the long-standing farm traditions of tinkering, inventing, fabricating, tweaking, and fixing things that they broke. Open to farmers of all ages, it has special relevance to young and beginning farmers, who may want to learn from their peers' and their elders' successes, mistakes and new ideas. Go to <http://www.youngfarmers.org/practical/farm-hack/> for ideas!

**Large Animal Veterinary Services**

Dr. Barbara Korry, DVM is available to provide rabies vaccinations for livestock. Appointments will be available on Monday and Tuesday mornings and Saturday afternoons, please call 401-732-4050 to schedule. Rabies certificates will be provided. Please note that if you are planning to show your animals the rabies vaccination must be administered at least 30 days before the show unless it is a booster.

Dr. Dan Hochman, DVM of New Canaan, CT is offering veterinary services for livestock. Call 203-972-7387 for more information and availability.

**RI Raised Livestock Assoc 2011 Annual Meeting**

The 2011 RIRLA Annual Meeting is coming up! There will be a trade show featuring agricultural vendors and service providers; light dinner fare; brief, informational presentations and the chance for you to let RIRLA know what you like and what you would like to see in 2011 and beyond. Scheduled for Monday, March 28, at the Elks Hall in West Greenwich. Questions or input into planning the meeting: call 401-575-3348 or email at [RIRaised@gmamil.com](mailto:RIRaised@gmamil.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

**INTEREST IN LEARNING TO SHEAR ????**

On April 19, 2011 there will be a Shearing School at the University of Connecticut, sheep barn. For information contact Randy Knight [randall.knight@uconn.edu](mailto:randall.knight@uconn.edu) .

\*\*\*\*\*

## **RHODE ISLAND ANNUAL WOOL & FIBER FESTIVAL**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhode Island Wool & Fiber Festival will be held Saturday May 21, 2011 from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Coggeshall Farm Museum, in Bristol, Rhode Island. Events of the day include sheep shearing done by hand, crafts in the Kid's Tent, Fleece to Shawl contest, skirting wool demonstration, rug hooking, spinning, weaving, dyeing yarns, and various other interesting demonstrations. See fiber animals, learn about Rhody Warm Blankets, and browse the many vendors with wool and fiber related items for sale. And of course, tour the Museums' 18th Century Farmhouse to see hearth cooking. Interested in being a vendor: contact Linda Rhynard at [lrhynard@yahoo.com](mailto:lrhynard@yahoo.com) and for more information on the festival or the museum or get directions- go to [www.coggeshallfarm.org](http://www.coggeshallfarm.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **NOTICE THE DATE CHANGE**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**      **July 7-10, 2011**

The New England Sale and Used Equipment Auction along with the North East Youth Sheep Show will be one week earlier this year. They will be held at the same place: in the Mallary Complex at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The show of the sheep entered in the New England Sale will be held on Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning, followed by the Youth Show's Market Lamb Show in the afternoon, and ending the day with the New England Sheep & Wool Growers annual meeting and dinner. On Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, will run the purebred sheep auction hosting the National Southdown Sale, followed by the Used Equipment Auction (which is always a hit with new and experienced sheep farmers). At the completion of the auctions, the Youth Show will run its Fitting and Showmanship Classes. Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, rounds out the very busy weekend with the Youth Show breed shows hosting approximately 13 different breeds of sheep and featuring the 2011 National Southdown Junior Show. As the time gets closer, check the website for sale catalog and (for the youth) entries for the youth show (due the week before the show) [www.nesheep.org](http://www.nesheep.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **102nd Annual Sheep, Wool & Fiber Festival**

Saturday, April 30, 2011 - Rain or Shine - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tolland Agricultural Center

Route 30, Vernon/Rockville, CT



### **AWARD PRESENTED**

As the Fall Meeting of the RI Sheep Cooperative, Marcus and Barbara Thompson were presented with a Life Time Membership award and received a beautiful handmade wood plaque with a sheep and clock on it.

Co-op Director, Artie Seigmund, presented the plaque and read a condensed version of Thompsons' lengthy involvement in the sheep business which included showing and promoting sheep and wool, involvement in the sheep show at Big E, 4-H leaders, members of the founding committee of the North East Youth Sheep Show, members and past officer(s) of New England Sheep & Wool Grower and Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative, a wool buyer for woolen mill, manager cloth store at the mill, member of initial committee and Blanket Coordinator of Rhody Warm, committee member of The Fall Fiber Festival - just to name a few activities these people have been involved in over the many years in the sheep business. Congratulations to the Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, and *thank you* for all you have contributed to the sheep industry.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FROM THE RHODE ISLAND SCRAPIE BOARD CHAIRMAN:**

Hello Members,

As R.I. Scrapie Board Chairman I would like to make sure everyone knows the importance of the enclosed letter from Dr. Marshall. If we don't submit eight (8) samples per year for scrapie testing, then our status will be re-evaluated and we could very well be put in the high risk category. 'High risk' would mean more stricter restrictions on interstate movement of our animals for show and sale and even to terminal markets.

Scott and Noreen are being very cooperative in assisting the producers in collecting these samples so PLEASE if you have a sheep die on the farm (18 months old or older) PLEASE notify them so they can collect samples. It does not matter how the animal perished. Also, if you have an animal slaughtered and processed 18 mos. old or older please let them know as those animals are also eligible for testing and fulfilling our commitment.

When Scott spoke of this at our last RI Co-op meeting I don't think the message quite got through to all of us, me included, so I hope you all understand the importance of Rhode Island maintaining our low-risk scrapie status. We are a small state and travel outside of the state frequently with our animals. If we are bumped to high risk because we don't have enough testing samples that would be a shame as it will definitely make our lives more difficult adhering to the tougher movement requirements.

Thank you,

Deb Hopkins, R.I. Scrapie Committee Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

CALENDAR

- March 26, 2011 - RI Sheep Cooperative Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner
- March 28 2011 - RI Raised Livestock Association Annual Meeting
- April 9, 2011 - "Get to Know the Animals" with Aries 4-H Club,  
at the Apple Villa Hardware Rte 44, Chepachet
- April 19, 2011 - Shearing School at the Univ. Conn.
- April 30, 2011- Connecticut Sheep & Wool Festival, Tolland, CT
- May 7 and 8, 2011 - Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
- May 14 and 15, 2011 - New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival
- May 20-22, 2011 - Northeast Livestock Expo  
at the Windsor Fairgrounds, Windsor Maine
- May 21, 2011 - Rhode Island Wool and Fiber Festival, Bristol, RI
- May 28 & 29, 2011 - Massachusetts Sheep & Wool Festival ,  
at the Cummington Fairgrounds, Cummington, MA.
- June (first weekend) TBA - Wool Collection Day
- June 4 & 5, 2011 - 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Fiber Frolic, Windsor Fairgrounds, ME
- June 24-26, 2011 - SRI Fair @ Washington County Fairgrounds, Richmond, RI
- July 8 & 9, 2011 - New England Sale and Used Equipment Auction
- July 8-10, 2011 -North East Youth Sheep Show
- July 29-31, 2011 - Foster Old Home Days/ Northern RI 4-H Fair, Foster, RI
- August 17-21, 2011 - Washington County Fair (sheep show Thursday)
- Sept 16 thru Oct 2, 2011 - Eastern States Exposition , West Springfield, MA
- Sept, 17 & 18, 2011 - Finger Lakes fiber Festival,  
at Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock, NY
- Sept 24 & 25, 2011 -Southern Aidrondack Fiber Festival,  
at Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, New York
- Oct. 1 & @, 2011 - Vermont Wool Festival, at the  
Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, Vermont
- Oct. 15 & 16, 2011 - New York Sheep & Wool Festival/ NY Bred Ewe and Ewe  
Lamb Sale, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY
- Nov 5 & 6, 2011 - The Fall Fiber Festival , Eastern States Exposition



**CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:**

**[www.risheep.org](http://www.risheep.org)**

**New Fundraiser for the Cooperative:**

**FIRST ANNUAL BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**Saturday, April 23, 2011**

**at**

**Dave's Bar and Grill**

**Post Road, Warwick, RI**

**Time: 7:30 .am. - 10:15 a.m.**

**All you can eat**

**Help us sell tickets -**

**Contact TINA SHIPPEE**

**Email: [twins942@cox.net](mailto:twins942@cox.net) or Tel (c) #793-6819**

**\*\*Pictures will be available to be taken with a sheep or lamb\*\***

**\*\*Prepaid tickets will be needed\*\***

**WANTED:**

**\*MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES**

**\*INTERESTED IN THE BLANKET PROJECT, EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS, SKIRTING DEMONSTRATIONS, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, SPRING OR FALL CLINICS?**

**\*HAVE IDEAS FOR EVENTS THE COOPERATIVE COULD DO FOR ITS MEMBERS??**

**CALL POLLY TO GET INVOLVED: 401-949-4619 (EVENINGS)**

**OR EMAIL @ [khop4811@aol.com](mailto:khop4811@aol.com)**