

THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXIV, Issue 1 Website: www.risheep.org **March 2013** Telephone: (401) 578-2012

ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK SUPPER & PROGRAM

WHEN: Saturday April 6, 2013
WHERE: South Foster Fire Station

5 Mt. Hygeia Road, Foster, RI 02825

TIME: Doors open at 5:00p.m., visit with fellow members and friends

Pot Luck Dinner promptly at 6:00 pm

(bring a large dish to share, drinks and dessert will be provided)

ANNUAL MEETING: Immediately following the dessert

PROGRAM: "More Lambs, More Often"

We are excited to have as our guest speaker: Sam Anderson, Livestock Program and outreach Coordinator, of New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, www.nesfp.org. Mr. Anderson says "More Lambs, More Often" will be a look at some strategies for getting more lambs, without getting more ewes. In particular, discussion will be accelerated lambing and selective breeding. If time permits, the discussion will get into management tips for fall lambing and strategies for selective breeding.

Anyone interest in Mr. Anderson's presentation is invited to join in the potluck, just bring along a dish to share. If you are interested in just coming for the presentation, feel free to come just for that. Have questions? Contact Deb Hopkins at cdcdorset@cox.net

RHODY WARM BLANKET PROJECT - WOOL COLLECTION DATE SET PLEASE NOTE - LOCATION HAS BEEN CHANGED

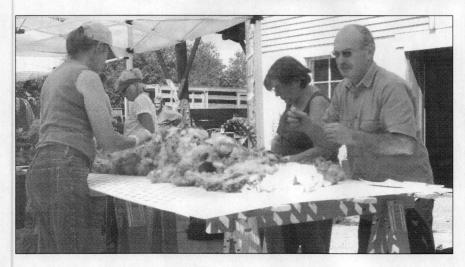
WOOL COLLECTION DAY: June 9, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. PLACE: Polly & Kevin Hopkins farm, Maybe Tomorrow Farm 494 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI 02814.

Calling on Members

The Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative will have informational booths at (i) the RI Sheep and Fiber Festival at the Coggeshall Farm, Bristol, in May, (ii) the Foster Old Home Days in July, (iii) Kenyon Grist Mills' Harvest Festival, West Kingston, in October, and at (iv) The Fall Fiber Festival of New England in West Springfield, Massachusetts in November. The Board is looking for members to sit in the booth for a few hours at all of these events. If you are interested, please contact Polly (khop4811@aol.com/949-4619). You don't have to sit all day, give a few hours and then you and wander around the event to shop or visit friends. Help to promote local lamb and wool!!!

** RHODY WARM Pictures from the

Wool Collection Day - June 2012



Members skirting their fleeces with guidance from Committee members



Fleeces are weighed individually

Fleeces packed in bags by local 4-H members

Full bags of wool being sewed up for shipping



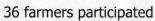
Treasurer pays farmer for wool



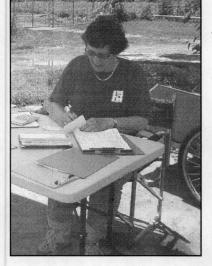
Finished product: "Little Rest" Edition



Collected 1924 lbs of wool (1121 lbs white & 803 dark)



Approximately 360 blankets were made in sizes from baby blankets to king size.





Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative - Essay Contest



Congratulations to Sal Krekorian, of Wakefield, the winner of the first annual Essay Contest to name the 2012 Edition of the Rhody Warm Blankets. Sal chose to write his essay on the village of "Little Rest", which was located in an area of what is now Kingston.

Sal and his family attended the Fall Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting of the R.I. Sheep Cooperative where Secretary Jenny Lee gave him the winning prize: Kindle Fire!

2013 Essay Contest is under way...

The Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative is again sponsoring an essay contest to name the upcoming 2013 blanket edition. The essay, written by a youth 18 years or younger, needs to be about one of the 'Lost Villages' from Rhode Island's past. The contestant may choose to write about any 'Lost Village' from around the state that has not been previously used. The essay must include a history of the village, incorporating what the village was known for, and how it became a 'Lost Village'.

According to the Cooperative, a 'Lost Village' is considered "to be a village that was abandoned, destroyed or is not known to most people today". The previous Rhody Warm blankets have been named after the 'Lost Villages' of: South Scituate, Kent, Rockland, Ashland, Richmond and Little Rest

Guidelines for the contest are: that the essay must be no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words.; the essay must be typed and double spaced; contestants must include a resource page, including all information referenced or cited in their writing. Also, a cover page must be entered with the essay, giving the contestant's name, address, telephone number, age and email address. All essays entered in the contest will be judged by a committee appointed by the Rhody Warm Blanket Committee. The winner of the Essay Contest will be recognized in the 2013 blanket brochure and will win a Kindle Fire! The winner will receive notification by phone and will be announced on the Cooperative's website, www.risheep.org, with the approval of parent.

Essays must be post marked by June 8, 2013.

Go to the website for more information.

Mail essays to: Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative, Attn: Essay Contest, PO Box 88, Harmony, RI 02829.

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE 2012-2013 Officers:

President: Irene Nebiker
Vice President: Artie Siegmund
Recording Secretary: Tony Patti
Corresponding Secretary: Jenny Lee
Treasurer: Debra Hopkins

Assistant Treasurer: Irene Nebiker

Directors: Barbara Donnelly, Christine Sederback Roberta Browning Rhody Warm Blanket Co-Chairs: Robin Meek & Polly Hopkins Ag Council Representatives: Irene Nebiker & Christine Sederback

ASI Representative: Debra Hopkins Ex-Officio: Polly Hopkins

R.I. SHEEP COOPERATIVE'S MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: The Memorial Scholarship was set up last year as part of the marketing plan of the Rhody Warm Blanket Project. Thanks to the insight of one of our Board members, it is set up to honor some special members who are no longer with us. This Scholarship is given in memory of Zeke Young, Ambrose Garvey, and Fred Andrews. Zeke was a long time Co-op member, Wool Pool Manager, held the office of President many, many times and was extremely generous in his support of our youth activities. Ambrose was an active member of the Cooperative in recent years, held the office Vice President numerous times, worked n the Rhody Warm Blanket Project from its inception, and encouraged and supported local youth in their sheep projects. Fred was also a long time Cooperative member, held the office of our President many, many times, worked closely with 4-H kids and their sheep projects, and was the former sheep superintendent at the Washington County Fair for many years.

The \$500.00 scholarship given once annually. This scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and college students who are members of, or their families are members of, the RI Sheep Cooperative. Other terms of this scholarship are posted on the website, or contact a Board member for details.



First Recipient of the RI Sheep Cooperative Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Colin Siegmund, a freshman at the University of Connecticut, who was awarded the first annual Memorial Scholarship. Colin raises Border Leicester sheep and last year purchased a couple Oxford ewes. He was a member of the Aries 4-H Club, and has grown into the 'professional showman' at the local sheep shows. Colin recently suggested a "Round Table Discussion" section be added to the American Border Leicester Association quarterly newsletter, and offered to write the first article. The following is a prime example of this young man's knowledge and interest in his growing sheep project. With his permission, the article is reprinted here.

I'm excited to start off our [Round Table] discussion section with how I manage my lambs

through weaning. Let me preface this as this is what has worked for me so far, I am by no means an expert, and it is not a set rule I am constantly changing little things to improve. The biggest key to successful creep feeding that I have found is having a spacious, well lit, and clean creep area. Cleanliness is very important with our young lambs because they are very vulnerable to infectious diseases. Additionally when allocating space keep in mind that the lambs will grow so we try to aim for enough space in the creep through weaning. This reduces crowding that, in turn, helps cleanliness and ensures each lamb has enough space at the feed bunk. When it comes to the feed bunk in the creep I like to have grain in front of the lambs from day one. Even though rumination will start at about two weeks the sooner they begin to consume grain the better their rumen will develop. I know we all acknowledge that free choice grain is important for growing lambs but it will is impact their later life as well. The starches in the grains are more accessible to the bacteria and multi-flora in the rumen. Thus I attempt to make the most of the limited number of early bacteria in the rumen by attempting to get lambs to consume as much grain as early as possible. As these bacteria begin to jumpstart rumination papillae develop in the rumen, which will help the more efficiently absorb volatile fatty acids later in life. I feed a 20% protein creep pellet with a 30% percent protein, and high fat supplement along with oatmeal. These feeds contain large amounts of readily accessible nutrients and the oatmeal helps to add texture to the feed increasing consumption. I limit the hay provided to a very leafy third cut alfalfa because the rumen is not quite developed enough to handle large amounts of structural fiber and any other hay would just crowd the rumen limiting the consumption of the

grain. Water is also essential to rumen development because the milk is diverted directly into the abomassum thus denying the rumen of moisture. Water consumption by the lambs is not necessarily essential for maintenance but provides the growing rumen with the necessary moisture for fermentation. For weaning I wean the ewes and lambs in one day. I feel that this reduces udder damage in my ewes from hungry lambs battering swollen udders. I will keep the lambs on free choice grain for another two weeks. This is where I begin to introduce more hay preferably fine stemmed very palatable hay; I like second cut or better and preferably an alfalfa mix. I will keep hay in front of them while they are on free choice grain as this will help develop rumen volume. After two weeks I try and push the lambs with as much grain as they will take as long as they don't scour and as much hay as they will eat. My ration balance is roughly 60% concentrate and 40% forage. It's always a tough balance between maximizing consumption and avoiding acidosis. That's what has worked for me so far and I look forward to hearing everyone's strategies.

-Colin Siegmund, CT-

A 'friend' on Facebook shared with me the following diagram and information below on how to measure the weight your sheep without a scale. They did not have a walk-in scale to weigh adult sheep or market lambs for show, but used this method. They reported that when their lambs were weighed in at the fair, there was only a 4 - 5 lbs difference from what they had figured at home. I haven't tried this yet, but it sounds like an easy thing to do to figure approximate weight of your animal. Do remember if your animal has a fleece, to part the wool and use the tape as close to the skin as possible. Its best to use the type of measuring tape that is used for sewing.

ESTIMATING WEIGHT OF YOUR LAMB

- MEASU!
 - MEASURE CIRCUMFERENCE (C)

With a tape measure, measure all the way around the sheep's body just behind the front legs.

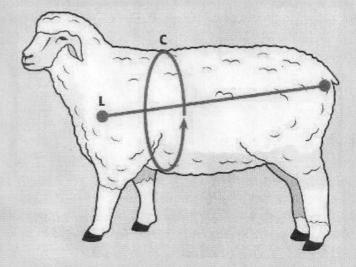
MEASURE LENGTH (L)

Next, measure the length of the body from the point of the shoulder to the point of the rump.

3 CALCULATE WEIGHT

Now, multiply $C \times C \times L$ and divide by 300.

Weight = $\frac{C \times C \times L}{300}$



IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SCALE, you can estimate an animal's weight using the technique described here. If the sheep is in full fleece, part the wool so that the measurement is accurate.

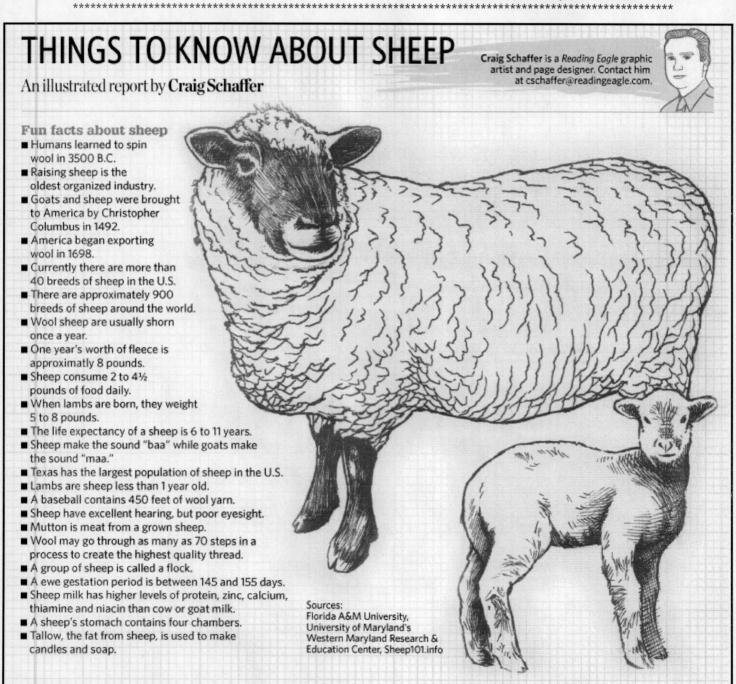
NORTH EAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW COLLECTING SPONSORS

Thanks to those who supported the 2012 NEYSS T-Shirts. Once again, we raised enough funds to cover the cost of all the t-shirts for all the exhibitors at the youth show. Without the continued sponsorships the free t-shirts for these exhibitors would not be possible. The NEYSS relies heavily on our supporters for the success of this great Northeast Youth Show and are again asking for support by way of a 2013 t-shirt sponsorship.

Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find a form to be a 2013 t-shirt sponsor. Please fill out and send in today with your \$25.00. The sooner you send it in, the higher your name will be on the list - which appears on the back of the t-shirts!

Also, please feel free to copy this form and hand out to your friends or anyone who you think would be interested supporting the youth sheep exhibitors at the July show. THANK-YOU!!!!

* North East Youth Sheep Show Committee *



AMERICAN LAMB BOARD NEWS

**** LAMB JAM TOUR **

2013 4th Annual Boston Lamb Jam

On Sunday, February 17, the American Lamb Board hosted the 4th Annual Boston Lamb Jam at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge, MA. The sold-out event brought 500 lamb lovers together with 100 restaurant industry professionals to celebrate American Lamb, expanding into the New England area. Eighteen chefs divided into four cut categories to compete for honors such as Best in Cut, Best in Show and Fan Favorite. Event attendees sampled the chefs' dishes and sipped beer poured by eight local breweries and wines from 90+ Cellars. For those who were looking for something sweet to finish off the evening, Local Treat Bakery provided delicious desserts including cake pops decorated like lambs. ALB also kicked off the Lamb Jam Tour's first VIP Pre-Party Hour for an additional entry fee. VIPs grazed on a variety of American Lamb charcuterie, sheep's milk cheeses, and signature bourbon cocktail.

ALB hosted three information sessions, including a butchery demonstration led by local chef and butchers Nuno Alves and Chris Douglas of Tavolo. Local shepherd Lisa Webster of North Star Farm led two educational shepherd talks and American Lamb trivia. The American Lamb Board also had a number of local lamb producers on Producers' Row who educated consumers about local lamb production and where to buy American Lamb locally. If you would like to participate on Producers' Row during one of our Lamb Jam Tour stops, please contact Rae Maestas for details.

Pictured below are Nick Miniter, Emmie Hukowicz and Jessica Miniter representing the Lighting Ridge Farm (MA) and Hopkins Southdowns (RI) on Producers Row.



Local Shearers:

CALL EARLY TO ARRANGE A DATE FOR SPRING SHEARING;

Brittany Sederback (small flocks) (also farm sits): tel: 401-678-6915,

email: agiwanuku@gmail.com

Colin Siegmund (small flocks): tel: 860-315-7684,

email: woolyone@charter.net

Aaron Loux (large and small flocks): tel: 413-230-8607,

email: aaronshearing@gmail.com.



Things to Remember:

Be there to greet your shearer and assist him/her when needed – do not expect the shearer to work on your sheep when you are not there!

Keep your sheep dry if it rains the day or two before your appointment.

Have your sheep locked in the barn, 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

**Ask your shearer about skirting techniques and 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.

We really want you to participate in the Rhode Island "Rhody Warm Blanket Project", but if you miss the Collection Day and want to get rid of your wool this year -- Aaron Loux has organized the Third Annual Wool Pool to be held on Saturday, June 29, 2013, again at the Cummington Fairgrounds in Cummington, Massachusetts. This will be a graded pool, all fleeces accepted. Wool may be delivered earlier in the week but arrangements MUST be made with Aaron. Fleeces are grade by the buyer and checks come directly from that company after the Wool Pool date.

Aaron does not want to compete with the Rhody Warm Project, but offers another way to sell your wool. For more information and to sign up for this wool pool - please contact Aaron directly at telephone number -413-230-8607, or by email: aaronshearing@gmail.com.

AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY (ASI) NEWS

(Editor's Note: as a paid member of the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative, you receive the ASI's weekly email blasts (if you gave us your email address) and their informative newsletters. Be sure to read all the latest goings on in the sheep industry. In previous newsletters, I highlighted information and press releases from the ASI, but will discontinue this, so as not to duplicate information. However the following is an honor, and those of us 'old timers' in the sheep world know Mr. Stumbo and congratulate him on his election to represent our region on the ASI's Executive Board.)

KEITH STUMBO ELECTED TO ASI EXECUTIVE BOARD

DENVER, Colo. – Keith Stumbo of Honeoye, New York, was elected to represent Region I on the American Sheep Industry Association's (ASI) Executive Board at the 2013 ASI/National Lamb Feeders Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 24-26. Region I represents the northeastern states. Stumbo runs approximately 175 sheep, which make up a purebred flock of Columbia, Dorset and Southdown breeds, on a small farm in western New York. He sells breeding stock, both ewes and rams, to 4-H members as well as rams to commercial flocks. Stumbo grew up showing

sheep. When his own children got old enough to enter the show ring, he got back into the sheep business. That was more than 30 years ago and now he has five of his seven grandchildren involved in the ring. Stumbo is also involved in showing sheep in the open class at a number of fairs both in and out of state. "It is an exciting time to be a member of the sheep industry and the fact that there is some trying issues to contend with will be challenging," says Stumbo. "I feel fortunate that I have existing relationships in many of the states that I will represent through selling sheep at a number of the state expos and shows." For the past 10 years, Stumbo has been the President of the Empire Sheep Producers. He has represented the State of New York as the voting director on the ASI board of directors for the last nine years. He has served on ASI's Legislative Action Council and American Wool Council. Stumbo is on the board of directors for the Columbia Sheep Breeders Association and the American Oxford Sheep Association. Stumbo is currently President of the Honeoye Central School Board in which he has been a board member for 17 years. He was also a charter member of the Honeoye Rotary Club during its inception and has remained a member for 45 years. Stumbo is retired from his position as Vice President of a light construction equipment company where he was in charge of international sales. He holds a degree in business management from Alfred State College. He and his wife, Kathy, have two daughters and seven grandchildren. ASI is a national trade organization supported by 46 state sheep associations, benefiting the interests of more than 81,000 sheep producers.

Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School registration opens for July 14-17, 2013 'Ranching in Texas' session

Participants 20 years of age or older who are interested in all aspects of sheep production, have until May 3, 2013 to register for the July 14-17, 2013 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School. This year's school, held in San Angelo Texas, is directed by Dr. Frank Craddock, Professor and Extension Specialist at Texas A & M. Limited to 25 students. School participants will study sheep and goat carcass evaluation and fabrication and tour a sheep and goat operation, one of the last remaining wool scouring plants, feedlots, custom skin and pelt operations, see current and future research efforts at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center. There is no fee to apply though once accepted, each attendee must submit a registration fee of \$200 (limited to 25 students; includes meals, lodging and tour-related expenses). Participants are responsible for their own travel. For school agenda and form to register electronically, visit http://www.nlfa-sheep.org/leadership.html. For more information, call the National Lamb Feeders Assoc. (NLFA) office at 503-364-5462 or email info@nlfa-sheep.org.

*** Calendar of Events ***

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP CO-OP'S ANNUAL MEETING

April 6, 2013
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - Pot Luck Supper, with Program immediately following
5 Mt Hygeia Road, Foster, RI
Contact Deb Hopkins at cdcdorset@cox.net

CONNECTICUT SHEEP, WOOL & FIBER FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 27, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tolland Agricultural Center, Route 30, Vernon/Rockville, CT
GPS - 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT
For more information: www.ctsheep.com



WATSON FARM - SHEARING DAY

May 11, 2013-03-25 12:00 to 4:00 Watson Farm, 455 North Road, Jamestown, RI For information: watsonfarm1796@yahoo.com



May 11 & 12, 2013
Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m./Sun 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, N.H.
For more information: www.nhswga.com



RHODE ISLAND SHEEP & FIBER FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 18, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Coggeshall Farm Museum Coggeshall Farm Road, Bristol, RI New this year: Workshops!

For more information: www.coggeshallfarm.org/sheep&fiber.html

MASSACHUSETTS SHEEP & WOOLCRAFT FAIR

May 25 & 26, 2013 97 Fairgrounds Road, Cummington, MA 01026 For more information: <u>www.MASHEEPWOOL.org</u>

*** WOOL COLLECTION DAY ***

June 9, 2013 (rain or shine) 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

at Polly & Kevin Hopkins' farm, 494 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI Questions: <u>khop4811@aol.com</u> / 949-4619



July 19& 20, 2013

NORTH EAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW

July 18-21, 2013

Mallary Complex, Eastern States Expo. Fairgrounds

West Springfield, MA

For more information: www.nesheep.org

FOSTER OLD HOME DAYS

July 26, 27 & 28, 2013 Rt 94, Foster, Rhode Island

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

August 14-18, 2013 Rt. 112, Richmond, Rhode Island

For more information: www.washingtoncountryfair-ri.com

NEW YORK BRED EWE AND EWE LAMB SALE

October 2013 Dutchess County Fairgrounds Rhinebeck, New York

KENYON GRIST MILL 2013 HARVEST JOHNNY CAKE FESTIVAL

October 19-20, 2013
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
21 Glen Rock Road, West Kingston, RI
For more information: www.kenyonsgristmill.com

THE FALL FIBER FESTIVAL OF NEW ENGLAND

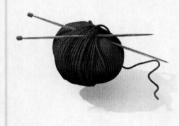
November 2 & 3, 2013

Mallary Complex, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds

West Springfield, Massachusetts

For more information: www.thebige.com/ese/eseevents/Fiber_Festival.asp









RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE

JOIN TODAY!!

2013 Membership Form

X Enclosed is my \$10.00 check made payable to RI Sheep Co-operative for my 2013 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 12, 2013 WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 2013 DIRECTORY

2013 NORTHEAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW T-SHIRT SPONSORSHIP FORM

Name (as you want it to appear on the T-Shirt): Mailing Address____ City_____State___Zip_ E-mail address:____ Please make out your check or money order to: NESWGA/Youth Show Send your \$25.00 sponsorship and completed form by May 1st to: Debra Hopkins 1125 Danielson Pike N.Scituate, RI 02857 2013 NORTHEAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW T-SHIRT SPONSORSHIP FORM Name (as you want it to appear on the T-Shirt): Mailing Address____ City_____State_ Zip

Please make out your check or money order to: NESWGA/Youth Show

E-mail address:

Send your \$25.00 sponsorship and completed form by May 1st to:

Debra Hopkins
1125 Danielson Pike
N.Scituate, RI 02857