

THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE
NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXVI, Issue 1

Website: www.risheep.org

March 2015

Telephone: (401) 578-2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!

**Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative
Annual Meeting**

March 28, 2015

WHERE??

South Foster Fire Station
Rt 94/Mt. Hygeia Road, Foster, RI



WHAT TIME??

Doors open at 5:00- come help set up
Pot luck Dinner starts at 6:00
Annual Meeting to follow

WHAT ELSE?

Program for the evening:

Guest speaker: Dr. Rachel Gately, Tufts University - Ambulatory Unit, Woodstock, CT

Dr. Gately grew up in Connecticut active in 4-H showing sheep, received her Bachelor in Science in Animal Science & Technology at URI, and her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University. She resides in Connecticut where she raises and shows purebred Texel and Dorset sheep.

Topic: *When to be a vet, when to call a vet, or when you're sheepish about calling the vet."*

Bring a large dish to share; hot and cold drinks and dessert will be provided.

* * * * *

Local Shearers:

CALL EARLY TO ARRANGE A SPRING SHEARING DATE:

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

Colin Siegmund, from Connecticut - tel: 860-315-7684,
email: woolyone@charter.net - U. Conn. student soon to graduate
shearer of small to medium size flocks, call early to book date

Sammye Patti (small flocks): (Dad's tel # 401-439-5551)
email: Ajpatti31@verizon.net -
4-H member, High School student, shearer of small flocks
contact thru her father, Tony Patti, call early to book a date



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 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.

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.



NEW ENGLAND SHEEP & WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Private Treaty Sale and Used Equipment Auction

New England Sheep & Wool Growers **Private Treaty Sheep Sale** was a hit last summer and plans are to run it again this year. This event will be held on Saturday July 11th, in the Mallery Livestock Complex at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield, Massachusetts, in conjunction with the North East Youth Sheep Show (this show runs July 10, 11 & 12). More information will be found on their website, www.nesheep.org next month. Then be sure to keep checking back with the website for information on entries in the Private Treaty Sale.

The Used Equipment Auction will again be held on the same day as the Private Treaty Sale. There is always a lot of sheep related items there for sale. Spend the day buying sheep or buying equipment, and check out the North East Youth Sheep Show- there will be kids from all over the country fitting and showing their prize winning animals.

BE sure to 'like' the *New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association* Facebook page to get up-to-day information and notices.

RI RAISED LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION announces its Annual Meeting

Come visit with old friends, meet new members, network and discuss plans for 2015 and beyond.

Monday, April 6, 2015

Coventry-West Greenwich Elks Lodge
42 Nooseneck Road (Rt. 3), West Greenwich, RI

We will once again be holding the Business Meeting at the beginning of the evening, with the meal and Trade Show to follow.

- Doors open at 5:30 for Trade Show
- Business Meeting 6 - 6:45 p.m. (RIRLA Members) 2015-17 Board Elections
- Light meal to follow
- Trade Show continues to 8:00 p.m.

****Door Prizes**** At the end of the evening, we will raffle off items donated by Vendors. Members will receive a ticket at the door.

RIRLA Membership renews on April 1, 2015. New this year: Through May 1, 2015, the Producer and Large Producer levels will have a Prompt Join/Renew discount. If you renew or join no later than May 1, 2015, the \$65 Producer Level is only \$50. The \$100 Large Producer level is just \$75. Envelopes must be postmarked by May 1, 2015 if you are mailing your dues and want the discount.

You may join or renew easily at <http://www.rirla.org/new-renew.htm>. The discount is available there until May 1, 2015 at midnight.

Questions? Contact: Heidi Quinn, Association Coordinator
Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association
P.O. Box 640, North Scituate, RI 02857
(401)-575-3348
www.rirla.org

SVF FOUNDATION
Newport, Rhode Island

Lecture Series: The SVF Lecture Series features topics pertaining to local farming systems, sustainable agriculture and conservation. These events are free to the public and held at [Swiss Village Farm](#), 152 Harrison Avenue, Newport, RI. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Please contact Kate Rowles at Kate@svffoundation.org or (401) 848-7229 ext. 10 to register.

Carnivore's Manifesto Presenter- Patrick Martins
7 PM Thursday April 9th 2015

Patrick Martins is a distributor of heritage and rare-breed meat through his company, Heritage Foods USA, which ships over 60,000 pounds of meat a week across the nation. Patrick also founded both Slow Food USA and Heritage Radio Network - a live online food radio station with over a million listeners. In 2014, Patrick added his own distinctive battle cry to the sustainable-food revolution in THE CARNIVORE'S MANIFESTO. We have evolved as meat eaters, proclaims Martins, and it's futile to deny it, but in the face of a fast-food takeover and factory farming, we need to make smart, informed choices about the food we eat.

What's your backyard got to do with farming? Presenter - Drake Patten
7PM Wednesday, May 14th 2015 *SOLD OUT*****

Small-scale growing, animal husbandry, and homesteading skills are making a comeback in urban and suburban environments. We'll explore this renaissance with Drake Patten, an anthropologist and the owner of New England's first urban farm supply business, [Cluck!](#) Patten believes that peoples' interest

is not only an attempt to gain control of our food source and recover skills that our grandparents knew, but also a new form of community building through urban farming and chicken keeping in our capitol city.

Please check back soon for additional dates and topics to be presented in this ongoing series.

2015 SVF Annual Visitors Day

Saturday June 13th, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Looking for some family fun this summer? Interested in learning more about heritage breed livestock? Join SVF Foundation for our annual Visitors Day celebration, and enjoy a day packed with fascinating information and fun activities, all set on SVF's breathtaking 35-acre property in Newport, Rhode Island.

- Take self-guided tours through the historic Swiss Village
- Peek into our state-of-the-art facilities and meet the SVF laboratory, veterinary, and animal care staff
- Visit [Chip](#), a rare Tennessee myotonic goat born from a frozen embryo, and learn about other endangered breeds of livestock
- Attend live cryogenics and sheep shearing demonstrations
- Shop SVF's selection of farm products and heritage breed meat
- Returning this year- [Julians Omnibus](#), a double-decker 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 transportation will be provided by trolley from 9am – 3pm. There will be no parking available at SVF.

For more information call 401.848.7229 or email info@svffoundation.org

Bordeaux On The Go!

A major step forward was taken in securing the future of the diversity of the nation's food supply. The first of several tanks filled with genetic samples of rare and endangered livestock breeds made its way from the [SVF Foundation](#) in Newport, Rhode Island to the [Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute](#) (SCBI) facility in Front Royal, Virginia. This successful tank transfer is part of the new Smithsonian and SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project, a partnership working to build a national bank of germplasm—semen, embryos, cells, and blood— of a wide variety of rare and endangered breeds of pigs, sheep, goat, and cattle.

This unique collaboration between two world-class conservation efforts was officially launched in summer 2014 by SVF Foundation's founder, Mrs. Dorrance H. Hamilton, and the Smithsonian Secretary, Wayne Clough. The addition of the SVF germplasm collection to the SCBI's extensive animal biorepository represents the first domestic livestock samples to the Smithsonian archives. "[The Smithsonian & SVF Foundation Biodiversity Project](#) is a terrific example of how a public and private partnership can address a formidable world challenge," said Clough. "By bringing together the cutting-edge scientific expertise of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute with SVF's extensive genetic material, we will gather more information on rare and endangered heritage breeds to make a lasting impact on global biodiversity."

The tank transfer required precise planning and execution on the part of those involved in the Smithsonian and SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project. SVF's Lab Director Dr. Dorothy Roof, Executive Director, Peter Borden, and the entire SVF crew worked diligently for weeks to ensure a successful tank transfer. The tank, dubbed "Bordeaux", is specially engineered for long-term cryogenic sample storage, and contains over 30,000 units of germplasm that have been carefully collected by SVF Foundation to represent genetic diversity of livestock breeds that may otherwise be lost to extinction. "Bordeaux" weighs in at an impressive 1,400 lbs, and required a custom 64 foot long wooden ramp that was crafted to smoothly load the tank into the cryogenic transport truck. Back-up storage tanks, liquid

nitrogen, and generators were on hand during transport in case of emergency. Cryoport, a professional biological sample transport company, handled the successful delivery and deposit to the SCBI facility.

With this first tank transfer complete, the Smithsonian and SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project plans to complete its mission of collecting and storing samples from endangered domestic livestock over the next seven years. With each deposit into the national germplasm repository, the Smithsonian and SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project comes closer to securing the genetic diversity of irreplaceable domestic livestock breeds for future use.

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE
Are Members Needed

The Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative has once again Signed up for 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 7 & 8, 2015. Help is We are looking for volunteers to help set up booth on Friday and to man the booth Saturday and Sunday. We can set up time frames for those interested so You will have time to shop at the festival too. Bring your wheel, needle felting, crocheting or knitting to demonstrate, and 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 - talk to Robin Meek, Polly Hopkins, Christine Sederback, or Irene Nebiker.



Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association

About the RIVMA: In March 1962, five Rhode Island veterinarians founded the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA) as a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the

science and art of veterinary medicine, including its relationship to public health and agriculture. Today, the RIVMA has grown to a vibrant and active community of more than 200 veterinarians whose dedication to animal welfare reaches beyond their clinic walls. The RIVMA offers several public health services to Rhode Island residents, including: (i) Low-cost rabies clinics that provide vaccines to more than 1,500 Rhode Island pets each year, and (ii) A spay/neuter assistance program (SNAP) that offers low-income pet owners discounted rates on spay or neuter surgeries.

In addition, the RIVMA Companion Animal Foundation (CAF) provides financial assistance to low income pet owners for emergency or routine medical treatment of their companion animals. The RIVMA is also committed to providing quality educational programming. Each December, the RIVMA offers a two-day Scientific Seminar for veterinarians and veterinary support staff. This two-day Continuing Education (CE) opportunity is one of the most popular in the region, bringing more than 400 professionals and 65 exhibitors to Newport, Rhode Island.

New Livestock Welfare & Care Standards: The Livestock Welfare and Care Standards Advisory Council have adopted Livestock Welfare and Care Standards. This document provides minimum care standards for livestock in the state. It will serve as standards for livestock producers and will also define minimum standards of care for law enforcement purposes pursuant to RIGL 4-1. Prior to the existence of this document there was no published standard for the care of livestock in Rhode Island. http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/pdf/livestock_welfare_standards_2014.pdf

NOOSENECK VILLAGE - 2014 EDITION RHODY WARM BLANKETS

For the third year, the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative held its Essay Contest to name its next Blanket edition. Last Fall, at its general membership meeting, the Cooperative named Molly Reeves of Manville, Rhode Island, the winner and awarded her a Kindle Fire. Molly is the daughter of Tim and Laura Reeves, and is a member of the Wings N Things 4-H Club. Molly chose to write her essay on the Nooseneck Village, a lost village of West Greenwich. The award was presented to Molly after a delicious Pot Luck Supper and during the Cooperative's formal meeting. The Nooseneck Village Edition of the Rhody Warm Blankets arrived in early December. The Cooperative is extra proud of their Blanket Project as its all



'Made in the USA' and actually starts and finishes here in Rhode Island. The sheep's wool is collected in June in Chepachet, shipped to South Carolina to be washed, then comes back up to Massachusetts for spinning and weaving. The fabric is then shipped to Albany, New York to be washed and fulled, and returned to Woonsocket, Rhode Island, to be napped, cut, edging sewn and packaged. Each edition of the Rhody Warm Blankets has a different name and is of a different pattern, all made in the natural colors of the wool collected that year. This year's pattern was a simple plaid. The Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative is a proud supporter of positive youth development, and besides the Essay Contest, offers an annual scholarship for a member's child

attending college. The Cooperative also supports local 4-H sheep activities, is an annual supporter of the North East Youth Sheep Show held in Massachusetts, and this year is a proud sponsor of the All American Junior Sheep Show. This All American event travels around the country always held on July 4th weekend, last year held in Kansas and this year will be held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in Massachusetts. The Cooperative provides educational speakers and programs for its adult members at the spring and fall meetings, and supports the sheep show at the Washington County Fair in Richmond. The Rhode Island Sheep Co-operative is able to support all these activities due to the overwhelming success of the sales of the Rhody Warm Blankets. Plans are in the works for a sheep symposium to be held in February 2016, put on by the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative. Stay tuned in for more details from the Board!

For more information on the Essay Contest, the Rhody Warm Blankets, or general information on the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative, go to www.risheep.org.



Coggeshall Farm Museum
1 Colt Drive, Bristol, RI 02809
<http://www.coggeshallfarm.org>

Rhode Island Wool and Fiber Festival Saturday, May 16, 9 am – 4 pm

Join skilled artisans, crafters and vendors specializing in wool and natural fibers for a regional festival featuring live demonstrations of fiber arts and sheep shearing, the “sit and knit” tent, kids’ crafts and games, acoustic music and local handcrafted foods.

Harvest Fair Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13

Bring the whole family for a day of old-fashioned fun, with 18th century games, crafts, dancing, music, jonnycakes and local handcrafted foods.

For information on being a vendor at either event, contact Casey C. Duckett, the Special Events Coordinator at: Tel# 401-952-6601 or email: caseyduckett@gmail.com

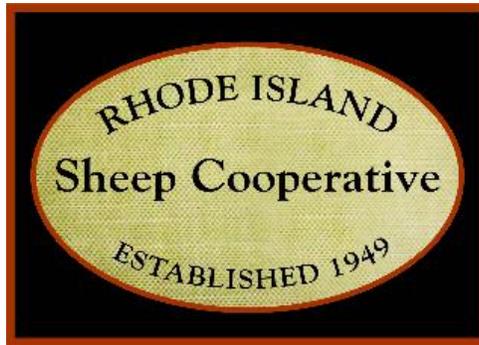
Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, year round.
Admission required.

Check our website for workshops offered throughout the year.

Our programs offer unique, affordable ways to learn whether you visit alone, as a group, or as a family.

If you're interested in history, learn about the roles of ordinary men, women, and children during the founding year's of a New Republic. If you're interested in nature, explore 48 acres of woodland, fields, and salt marsh. If you're interested in agriculture, take a lesson from the past in sustainable farming. Either way, come prepared to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty in the past.

Whether you're six or sixty, you won't be bored.



2015 Membership Form

Enclosed is my **\$10.00** check made payable to **RI Sheep Co-op** for my 2015 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, 2015 TO BE INCLUDED IN 2015 DIRECTORY ****