



THE RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE
NEWSLETTER

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March 2016

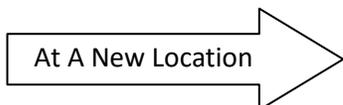
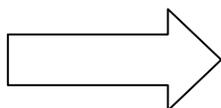
Website: www.risheep.org

Telephone: (401) 578-2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!

ANNUAL MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER

April 9, 2016



**WHERE?? Chepachet Grange
28 Chopmist Hill Road (also known as Route 102)
Chepachet, Rhode Island**

**WHAT TIME?? Doors open at 5:00
Please come help set up
Pot Luck Dinner starts at 6:00**

Please bring a large dish to share, drinks and dessert will be provided.

WHAT ELSE? Annual meeting - following dessert

GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING:

**Dr. Katherine Petersson, PhD, Animal Scientist
Associate Professor
Dept of Fisheries, Animal & Veterinary Sciences
University of Rhode Island**



Topic for the evening will be “*Sheep Nutrition*”

Dr. Petersson received her B.S. Degree in 1982 at Texas A & M University, followed by receiving her M.S. Degree in 1986 from Cornell University. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1990. We are pleased to have her join us for the evening.

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2016 SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND SHEPHERDS' FORUM

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

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



Go to our Facebook page or website for more pictures.

Local Shearers:

***** CALL EARLY TO BOOK A SHEARING DATE *****

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

Colin Siegmund, from Connecticut - Telephone #: 860-315-7684,
Email colin.siegmund@uconn.edu - U. Conn. Student/soon to graduate
shearer of small to medium size flocks, call now to book a date



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

Things to Remember:

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



Questions about skirting your fleece?

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

RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE

Members Needed

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

For more information or for questions about the festival – contact Robin Meek, Tony Patti, Polly Hopkins, Irene Nebiker, or John Buffington.



Online FAMACHA Certification

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

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



Online FAMACHA® certification can be obtained through a 4–step process:

1. View our 2 hour video on Integrated Parasite Control and our 30 minute video, *Why and How To Do FAMACHA® Scoring*. Visit our website, <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/video> to access these videos. The videos can be viewed in sections at your own pace. Complete an online post-video summary administered through SurveyMonkey. Email project staff (see bottom of page for contact information) to obtain the link to the summary and to notify when you have completed it. Project staff will review responses to the online post-video summary and follow up with producers if any clarification is needed.

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

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

- You will need help making the video, so enlist a friend or family member.
- To start – introduce yourself to us by stating your name, date and that you are demonstrating the proper handling of the animals for FAMACHA® scoring.
- Demonstrate the correct procedure on a sheep or goat. Make sure that you zoom in to provide an easy to see close-up of the COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP! technique on both eyes. Proper exposure of the eye mucous membranes must be evident from the video. An easy way to tell if you are using enough pressure when you COVER and PUSH is that you should see that the eyelashes of the upper eyelid are curling up over your thumb.
- Hold the card next to the mucous membranes and state whether the color is darker than, lighter than or the same color as the red line on your card.
- Be sure to demonstrate the technique in natural light and be careful that you do not shade the eyes with your body while exposing the membranes and remember to do both eyes.
- Repeat the procedure on a second sheep or goat.

4. Project staff will follow up through phone and/or email, as needed, to discuss and ensure proper technique. Live video sessions using Skype™ or FaceTime can be utilized when needed. Upon completing the 4–step online training program listed above, the participant will receive a Certificate of Competence in the use of the FAMACHA® anemia scoring system. The certificate will enable participants to purchase a FAMACHA® card through the University of Rhode Island (contact information below).

The price of the FAMACHA® card is subject to change. The current cost for each card is \$13.00 and can be paid using cash or a check made payable to: ***The University of Rhode Island***. Payment can be mailed as follows: Attention: Holly Burdett,

URI Cooperative Extension
120 Flagg Road, CBLS Room 383
Kingston, RI 02881

Contacts for Online FAMACHA® Certification:

Holly Burdett, University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about this online education program, as well as opportunities for assistance with selective breeding for parasite resistance, visit our project page – *New Approaches for Improving*

Integrated Parasite Control Strategies for Small Ruminants in the Northeast.
<http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/parasite-control/>

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

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

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

SVF Foundation Annual Visitors Day

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

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

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

SVF FOUNDATION
152 Harrison Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 848-7229

email: info@svffoundation.org

www.svffoundation.org



"Chip"
the SVF's mascot

HELP WANTED:

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

From Premier1Supplies ...

Something to watch for this lambing season...

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



Pinch the skin along the back.

Signs a lamb may be dehydrated:

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

To determine if a lamb is dehydrated—

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



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

Causes of dehydration:

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

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT
"RHODE ISLAND SHEEP COOPERATIVE"

COGGESHALL FARM MUSEUM

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

RHODE ISLAND FIBER FESTIVAL AND CRAFT FAIR Saturday, May 21, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join this gathering of artisans, crafters and appreciators of the fiber arts at this major festival. Sheep shearing, cooking competition, games and great local food. Performances by Atwater-Donnelly and others! For information on becoming a vendor or sponsor, [email Cindy Elder](mailto:cindy@coggeshallfarm.org). The Festival is included in the regular price of admission and is free to Coggeshall members.



SPRING 2016

We are open weekends from 10 am to 4 pm from December 15 through April 14, and Tuesday through Sunday from April 15 to Dec. 14. We are happy to book group tours or workshops Tuesday through Sunday with advance registration. Join us in the activities of daily life on an 18th-century farm in winter. The following demonstrations and activities are free to members and regular admission for nonmembers. For hours and admission information, go to our [Visit Us](#) page. For information on joining Coggeshall, visit our [Membership](#) page.



Candlemaking

Saturdays, 1 pm to 3 pm: Learn to make candles from scratch for the long, dark winter ahead using the drip technique and 18th-century molds.

Blacksmith Shop

Sundays, 1 pm to 3 pm: Watch our resident blacksmith create nails, knives, hooks and other useful objects in our 18th-century blacksmith shop.

Hearthcooking

Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 1 pm: Join us as we cook up something special over the hearth. From soups to jonny cakes or tasty desserts, every Sunday promises a new hearthcooking experience.

Check out the RI Sheep Cooperative's Website
for updates and information!

www.risheep.org