



# SCHSIA NEWS

November 2014



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## **RAMblings** From *EWE* President

Fellow SCHSIA Members, a little over a year ago we reinstated our association in order to **PRESERVE** the 30 year old “polled and white” breed standard as well as better **SERVE** you, our members. Apparently, many St. Croix breeders agree with this philosophy since our membership is now approaching 100. Of those, 75 have paid 2014 dues as of the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline (**see “Dues are Due”**) in this newsletter.

Continuing my theme from the July edition, following are some of the major accomplishments of your board of directors during the last four months:

- **ON LINE PEDIGREES-** please visit the web site [www.stcroixhairsheep.org](http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org) and under the “Registration” tab you'll see the “ PEDIGREES” tab. Click on this and follow the prompts. We feel this is a major improvement in service to our members as well as prospective St. Croix owners. It may take a little practice to become familiar with all the search possibilities but after spending a little time you'll begin to realize the potential. Essentially, you now have access to over 2000 sheep ( as of the September update) of which 662 ( designated with suffix “N”) have been registered in SCHSIA during this last year. Instead of searching for those old certificates, you are able to locate all the information by just clicking on the web site. I know there will be questions, so please feel free to contact [webmaster@stcroixhairsheep.org](mailto:webmaster@stcroixhairsheep.org), call Secretary Ed Barnes or myself with any questions, or visit: <http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org/pedigrees/index.php>.
- **REGISTRATION-** starting Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, we will transition to our new registration system and new Registrar. You will be receiving a separate letter with new forms and instructions at that time. You will see very little change in the format. This will include “fill-able” on line forms, such that you can type in the information and then save and attach the file to an email to the Registrar or print and mail with your check. Eventually, the entire process will be completed on-line .
- **BY LAWS-** your board has spent many months and hired a law firm in OR to review the new By Laws. We are now ready to ask for your approval, soon you will be receiving a separate communication from Secretary Ed, along with a ballot. You can now read the draft "By Laws"on the web site under “ Directors”, so that you can comment and be prepared to vote. I think you'll agree they are very “ MEMBER FRIENDLY”. To view our current bylaws, visit: <http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org/board-of-directors/by-laws/>
- **FEES-** you may have noticed that the fee for a duplicate certificate has been reduced from \$7 to \$3. This is to provide incentive for our members to obtain new SCHSIA certificates and thereby transfer those sheep into our data base. Also, **from now until December 31<sup>st</sup>**, we are waiving that fee. **So, now is the time to transfer all your sheep into SCHSIA.** In addition, when you transfer sheep, the association will absorb the extra cost of duplicate certificates so

those animals will be in the SCHSIA pedigree data base.

As always, approved minutes of our monthly Board meetings can be viewed on our web-site. For a list of your Officers and Directors, visit: <http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org/board-of-directors/director-listing/>. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your President and as always, feel free to email or call me with your comments and suggestions.

Respectfully,

Gary Keibler

# FAIR

# TIMES



## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon State Fair Welcomes Open St. Croix Sheep Show**

**-Ed Barnes**

The Oregon State Fair hosted the

seventeenth annual Open St. Croix sheep show this year in late August in Salem, Oregon. The weather was great, not too hot, not too cold, and not wet. Eight breeding farms had entered sheep but two were not able to show their sheep due to unforeseen circumstances. Those that did present their animals were: John and Vicki Hamstreet of Dreamfield St. Croix in Grande Ronde, Oregon; Karl and Jan Hyde of Lazy Shepherd Ranch in Almsville, Oregon; Crystie Crawford of Tanner Farm in Damascus, Oregon; Eli Crawford, 4-H member and also of Tanner Farm; Mindy and Samantha Fenwick of JMS Farm in Dallas, Oregon; Ed and Linda Barnes of Dorsey-Lee St. Croix in Portland, Oregon. Sue Swan of Pink Lady Ranch and Bill and Steve Swan of Swan Ranch in Glide, Oregon were not able to present their entered sheep. Sue Swan did help other breeders present their entries. Laurie Field of Three Sisters St. Croix was kind enough to take pictures and record results of the show.

Mindy and Samantha Fenwick of JMS Farm took the top honor of Premier Breeder for the show because of the outstanding ewes that they presented in all age groups which included Grand Champion Ewe. Vicki and John Hamstreet of Dreamfield Farm did very well in the ribbon department as well and won Reserve Champion Ewe and took home the coveted Oregon State Fair Shepherd's Award for the second straight year. This award is presented to the sheep farm that presents the cleanest, most informative to the public and friendliest pen site of all sheep breeds presented at the Oregon State Fair. Ed and Linda Barnes of Dorsey-Lee St. Croix were honored to receive the Grand Champion Ram award and the ribbon and trophy for Best St. Croix Pair (Ram and Ewe). Karl and Jan Hyde won Reserve Champion Ram.

The friendship and camaraderie between breeders at this event make it a pleasure to attend each and every year. If one factors in the fun and enjoyment of the event, all the breeder participants are winners.



Wire Ranch is awarded Premier Champion Ewe Primitive & American Breeds Sheep Show!

## **St. Croix Winners at California State Fair, July 2014**

**--Bill & Marilyn Wire**

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE - Wire Ranch won the Premier Champion Ewe, Primitive & American Breeds Sheep Show, at the California State Fair, July 2014. Our ewe won the Premier Champion Ewe Primitive & American Breeds Sheep Show at the California State Fair July 2014. Wire ranch also received Premier Exhibitor Primitive & American Breeds Sheep Show and Premier Breeder Primitive & American Breeds Sheep Show, 2 third, 9 second & 4 first and a rosette for reserve champion Primitive & American Breeds. Wire ranch had assistance from several members of their family, daughter, son-in-law, 3 grandchildren and friends. Our pens were in front of the judging arena, and we spoke to thousands of people about the breed and SCHSIA in the four days we were at the fair. One of the most popular items was a poster with the shape of a St. Croix Hair Sheep. To demonstrate the breed's hair, we glued their winter hair to the

poster. People from all ages were feeling the hair!



## "Scrapie-Proof" Your Flock

The Iowa's Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has published an excellent article regarding how to create the most scrapie-resistant flock possible. You may have heard the terms "RR", "QR", or "QQ" before when discussing breeding stock of St. Croix sheep. If these terms are new to you, or if you would like to learn more about eliminating risks of scrapies, this article is a must-read! To read more, visit: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/geneticsAndRamTesting.asp>



# St. Croix Preservation Reaches New Heights

*-Sarah Bowley*

SVF Foundation, a nonprofit founded in 2002 and based in Newport, RI, has been working quietly for over a decade to collect and cryopreserve genetic diversity in animal agriculture. Focusing on endangered breeds of cattle, sheep and goats, SVF has thus far collected samples (including semen, embryos, cells and blood) from over 1,000 donors representing 28 different rare breeds. This past year, SVF has announced an exciting new partnership with the Smithsonian Institute - creating the Smithsonian & SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project, ensuring this irreplaceable biorepository will be curated indefinitely into the future under the management of the Smithsonian.

In spring of 2014, SVF began work to incorporate St. Croix sheep into their unique program. Joyce Keibler was instrumental in organizing breeders within the St Croix Hair Sheep International Association to participate by providing stock. Several flocks and bloodlines have been included so far, including ewes from Joyce's own Hemmer Hill Farm, and sheep from Doug Lemster and Eric Russell. A total of 3 rams and 29 ewes from 5 flocks are currently at SVF's farm for collection this fall and winter. Next spring, many will be available for purchase or trade for those breeders who would benefit from incorporating new genetics into their flocks.

To learn more about SVF Foundation and the Smithsonian & SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project, please visit: [www.svffoundation.org](http://www.svffoundation.org). If you have St. Croix sheep which may be important for this project, or are looking to obtain stock once they have passed through the program, please email SVF's Program Director, Sarah Bowley, [sarah@svffoundation.org](mailto:sarah@svffoundation.org)



## Dues Are Due

Our annual dues of \$20 must be paid each calendar year before sheep can be transferred or registered. Also, in order to remain a member in good standing, you must pay them by October 31st of each year whether or not you have had any transactions with the Registrar. Please mail your check to, SCHSIA, P.O. Box 231, Wamego, KS 66547. If you have any questions, please contact Secretary, Ed Barnes at: 503-629-5587 or: [secretary@stcroixhairsheep.org](mailto:secretary@stcroixhairsheep.org). For more information, please visit: <http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org/membership/>

## Editor's Vewes

Hello from Goose Creek Farm in Trafalgar, Indiana! My name is Shannon Vansickle, and I am excited to be editor of your SCHSIA newsletter. As SCHSIA exists to support it's members, we would love your suggestions, comments, and photos. Lots of photos! We look forward to sharing stories and news within our SCHSIA community! Please contact us anytime at: [info@stcroixhairsheep.org](mailto:info@stcroixhairsheep.org) or visit: <http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org/contact/>

*We hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season!*