



Preserving Breed Standards since 1983

Summer Newsletter

JULY 2018

SCHSIA President

Brent Vansickle

Fair Time!

It has been a very busy and fun summer this year with our sons starting 4H and getting the lambs ready to show at our county fair. It was our first time ever showing sheep, I grew up showing hogs and raising cattle and my wife Shannon had never experienced showing animals at a 4H fair. We all had a great time at the fair and we

were able to speak to a lot of people about the St. Croix breed. We had to ask a few 4H kids to assist with showing some of our lambs when we had more than one in a Class. All of the kids who helped us had wool sheep breeds at the fair they were showing. After they were able to handle our St. Croix in the show ring they were telling their parents they would like to raise and bring a St. Croix to the fair next year. We are not sure how that conversation may go in private but we will see I guess!



Ethan and Avery VanSickle with their ewe lambs in the winners circle at Johnson County Indiana 4H Fair July 2018.

Important Registrar Update

REGISTRAR CHANGE- Effective Sept. 1 2008 we will be changing the SCHSIA registrar from Premier Registry to Associated Registry. There are plans to send out an email announcement in August but members should be aware that any work orders mailed to Premier that do not arrive by August 31st will be forwarded to Associated and will incur a delay. We will plan to update the web site with new forms and contact info by the middle of August. Thanks for your patience in this transition.

Any problems or questions may be directed to Gary Keibler , Treasurer, at gary@keibler.com or 502-228-3860.

News from Texas!

I am Rob Bass, the past president of the association and now the regional director. We have an exciting program coming up in August in San Angelo, Texas. The Sheep and Goat Field Day will be held again this year on August 17 and 18. These programs are put on by Texas A&M AgriLife. They have several speakers covering many different topics related to and goats, as well as breakout sessions, which I have been asked to be on the panel for hair sheep. Hair sheep is now outselling wool sheep in Texas!

The St. Croix Hair Sheep International Association will have a booth at the sheep Conference. This is a first for us, and we hope to get interest in our breed. We will have our banner and brochures available. If any of our St. Croix breeders are attending the conference and would like to help man the booth, please contact me.



White Lightning



Thick Burger

Featured Breeder

Charlie Bedinger

The featured breeder in this issue is Charlie Bedinger from Catlin, Illinois 9743N 1130E

Charlie has 300 acres of which 292 are in grain and the other 8 in pasture. He has 25 St. Croix ewes plus Southdown's and Hampshire's. *Pictured above are some of Charlie's prized St. Croix Stud rams.*



Sledge Hammer

Charlie's story: I started with sheep in 1956 as a 4-H project. I bought out one of my father's friends Southdown flock. It originated in 1914. My two sisters and I showed at county fairs extensively. Hampshire's were added in 1958. We exhibited at county, state, and national shows for the next forty years with many breed champions at all levels. St. Croix were added in 1997.

I worked on a 2000 head export deal to the Philippines. The order included 30 St. Croix.

I was sent to St. Croix to select a large group. 211 were shipped to my farm for the selectors to pick from. These were flown to Miami

and trucked to Illinois. Lambs had to weigh 60# to meet specs. Many were young ewe lambs. The stress of shipping them had shrunk them to under 50#. Also, ewes nursing lambs could not be shipped. Several had lambed in quarantine. I had agreed to buy all the left overs. I really think these were the best sheep in the shipment. I purchased 37 head. One particularly good group was the ewe lambs from the University of the Virgin Islands. They were very young and didn't make weight. These were a great foundation for my flock. In the mid 2000's I purchased all the USU ewe lambs for two years (77 in total) and all were RR. The two groups made a great combination.

At present, I just keep my elite stud ewes at the farm. I am in partnership with several breeders if I need numbers for export. They have purebred ewes from me and use my rams. A very good working arrangement for all.

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