



---

**Preserving Breed Standards since 1983**

---

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

# SCHSIA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to all members,

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Kaleb Kahl and I am currently serving as President of our organization. I live in south central Illinois with my wife Lindsey and my two children Heidi and Cooper. We raise sheep, beef cattle, and various small animals. I have raised sheep my entire life and have raised St. Croix since 2008. My first St. Croix were purchased to use as a cross into my commercial crossbred flock. After seeing the low maintenance and high maternal aspects of the breed I switched over to entirely purebred St. Croix within a few years. I spent a couple years gathering breeding stock from a few breeders in order to find animals who could compliment each other and help improve the others conformation. It was a long process with some matings that worked and some that didn't. Over about 10 years I was able to line breed my flock and get a consistent group with a skeletal structure to support future efforts at increasing muscle. With the addition of a couple new rams in past years I have now been able to continue advancing conformation and muscle to further develop an animal that I believe represents our breeds standards.

There are many different reasons why someone might raise St. Croix. Whatever the reason, make sure you buy animals that will fit your environment and management practices. If you intend to turn the sheep out into the wilderness and feed off briars and poison ivy, you probably shouldn't buy from a breeder that feeds alfalfa and grain daily and just dump them out on the open range. While they most likely look amazing they will likely fall apart in their new environment. I'm not against either of these practices however I just caution that different animals are suited to different environments.

The St. Croix are a hardy, resilient breed that I have enjoyed a great amount of success with over the last dozen years. Our organization has several devoted breeders that are making great genetic advancements with our breed. I encourage you to take the time to talk to other breeders and ask the right questions that will help you find the right addition to your flock. I also encourage you to help promote our breed. It may be as simple as helping some local kid with a fair lamb or selling the neighbor a ram for his/her crossbred flock just so that more people are exposed to our breed that has so much to offer.

I would like to speak with as many members as possible. If anyone would like to send an email to introduce themselves I would be glad to meet you and help in any way I can.

Thanks for your time and good luck with your flock.

## **Kaleb Kahl**

*President SCHSIA*

Kalebkahl@gmail.com

## **WELCOME TO THE NEW 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**

**President:** Kaleb Kahl

**Vice President:** Rob Bass

**Treasurer:** Gary Keibler

**Secretary:** Laurel Field

**South Central Director:** Keith Stephens

**Eastern Director:** Susan Brooks

**Northwest Director:** Ed Barnes

(appointed to fill the open position, not needing re-election this cycle)

**North Central:** Charlie Bedinger (not needing re-election this cycle)

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your area director or any executive board member for help.

# 2019 ANNUAL ST CROIX HAIR SHEEP INTERNATIONAL MEETING

**Hello Friends,**

First of all, thank you for attending our annual meeting. It was great to meet new members and spend time with old friends.

Mother Earth News was extremely hospitable and I'd like to thank their staff, especially Robert Riley. Robert coordinated everything for us, from suggesting The Blind Tiger to accommodating our livestock. He was a pleasure to work with and always ready to help.

Charlene Couch, PhD, of the Livestock Conservancy, was our excellent guest speaker and she was very informative and gracious. I am excited to participate in the Shave Em' to Save Em' Program next Spring. I believe artificial insemination in sheep will become more popular and available in the future. St Croix being a rare, heritage, and heirloom breed will be good candidates for AI, just like cattle and equine are today. If you are not a member of the Livestock Conservancy, you are welcome to join. They publish an annual directory that is a good sales tool to advertise your sheep.

The visitors to the Fair were very interested in our breed. We had excellent traffic at our booth. Some folks said they had read about St Croix, but had never seen one, others expressed interest in buying St Croix, even though they were breeding other hair sheep at the time. People were impressed by the parasite resistance, mothering instincts, and docile personalities. Money cannot buy this type of advertising especially to our niche market. St Croix appeal to small, sustainable farms across the US. We, as breeders, need to promote our breed and association to our local sheep enthusiast and extension agents, especially since we know how special these sheep are!

My main goal of attending the Mother Earth News Fair was to promote our wonderful St Croix breed and I feel like it was a success. Hopefully, we will see results for years to come. I welcome your comments and suggestions to make next years SCHSIA meeting better than ever.

Thanks for being good shepherds,

**Joyce Keibler**

502-767-3475

joyce@hemmerhillfarm.com



Maggie Alcorn (left) Louisville KY , Christy Davis ( R) Greensburg, KY, both new members of SCHSIA. They meet at our annual meeting in Topeka last Fall, and became friends.

Maggie is a pilot and invited Christy to go flying with her. It was Christy's first flight. Maggie's plane is in the background. They had a wonderful flight.

# LAMBING TIME

## THOUGHTS FROM OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Here are some great ideas to help your next lambing season be successful! Different shepherds utilize very similar and sometimes very different practices for what works in their area. Always check in with your veterinarian about an appropriate vaccination schedule for your location. Checking in with experienced shepherds and then utilizing what works for you on your farm is always a good practice.

“My advice for Saint Croix are to give them adequate nutrition and leave them alone. The ewes are great mothers and will save most lambs unassisted. Over managing them will result in saving animals that don't carry those traits.”

– Charlie Bedinger, IL

“Nutrition the last couple of months. Feeding an all stock feed 14% around a pound per day (per ewe). We also give 2 cc vitamin B complex.

We like to lamb in the pasture and pick-up mom and babies within a few hours of lambing and jug them for 2 to 5 days. Giving the mom plenty of food (all stock and alfalfa) with clean water.

We release the moms and babies into a small pasture with access to the barn, after tagging and tattooing the babies.”

– Rob Bass, TX

“If you have a flock of any size, I'd recommend keeping careful track of your calendar. Make careful note of when your ram was turned in for breeding. Sheep gestation period is 145 - 150 days. This might be a few days' short of 5 months. If you know when to start looking for new lambs, you have a big advantage in being ready for them to come.

We almost always “jug” newborn lambs with their mothers, for at least 48 - 72 hours. The exception to this may be if we have 1 or 2 ewes give birth out-of-season, and we are confident that there won't be any bonding issues. This gives moms & lambs time to bond without outside interference, and also helps US keep up with who belongs to whom! We get them tagged (or otherwise identified) before we turn them out, because

we might have trouble catching them after they are a few days old, lol! We keep triplets penned up longer, until we can make sure everybody is getting enough milk, and nobody is getting squeezed out.

We keep some instant lamb colostrum and lamb milk replacer on hand, along with a few lamb & kid bottles. Especially with first-time moms, her milk may be slow to come in, or she may not be producing enough for twins or triplets. It's really easy to supplement lambs, and still leave them with their mothers in the jug. Making sure that new lambs are getting enough calories is critical early on; although it's important not to overfeed. This can cause scouring, which is life-threatening for newborn lambs. Keep feedings small at first, 1-2 oz., and work up to 4-6 after the first 48 hrs.

Making sure that moms have lots of good quality feed and plenty of fresh water is critical. As the wise Joyce Keibler once said, “you cannot overfeed ewes with newborn lambs”! There are differences of opinion on whether to feed grain. If you do, new lambs learn very quickly to nibble alongside their moms, and this helps wonderfully with their growth.”

– Susan Brooks, TN

“Start watching for signs of labor when the ewe goes off by herself, isn't interested in food, and other ewes avoid her. Then put her in a safe place for her to give birth. We bed with a layer of sawdust with hay or straw covering it.



Three Sisters Livestock

As soon after birth as possible, put iodine on navel and we give a dose of selenium & vitamin E gel. We also make sure all lambs are “really” nursing. Feel their tummies to make sure they have been drinking. Have some colostrum substitute just in case of triplets or a weak lamb.

We also keep our newborn lambs with their mothers for at least two days before letting them mix with the other moms and lambs. In cases of triplets it’s three to four days.”

– Ed & Linda Barnes, OR

“Healthy mom/Healthy Lamb: Start ewes on supplemental feed at least 4-6 weeks before lambs are due. Continue to supplement ewe’s pasture or hay with protein during lactation. At least 4-6 weeks. You Can Not overfeed a lactating ewe!

Newborn Care: Shortly after birth, weigh the lamb, iodine the umbilical cord and give each lamb one pump of nutra-drench. At the same time give the ewe a bucket of warm water with a cup of molasses

To help with hydration. Check ewe’s teats for milk. Lambs MUST get colostrum in the first few hours of life. You can re-weigh your lambs at 24-36 hours to be sure they are getting nutrition and decide if they need some supplement by bottle feeding.”

– Gary & Joyce Keibler

“Most of all, lambing time can be very precious! It can teach you a lot about life and what a strong person you are. Every year will be a new adventure so ENJOY!”

– Laurel Field, OR



[www.StCroixHairSheep.org](http://www.StCroixHairSheep.org)

**St Croix Hair Sheep International Assoc**

Private group · 248 members



+ Invite

## CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

It’s hard to believe that the St. Croix Hair Sheep International Assoc Facebook Page is now well into its 4th year! Though we are a closed group, we have over 180 members who regularly exchange pictures, stories, and information. It was originally established to be an efficient means of communication for our members. However, we’ve now expanded to admit anyone who owns or is otherwise enthusiastic about polled and white St. Croix Hair Sheep.

It’s a great way to learn about upcoming Association events, as well as a network of support for new and established St. Croix farmers alike. If you haven’t already, please consider joining us! Just type “SCHSIA” in the search bar at the top of the page. We’ll be the first group in the list. We’d love to add you to our Facebook family!

**Susan R. Brooks**

*Board Member, Eastern Director*

## TAKE PART

# SHAVE EM 2 SAVE EM

## LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY PROGRAM

A new Livestock Conservancy Program since 2018, the “Shave em to Save em” idea came as a way to hopefully produce new markets for the specialized Heritage Wool Sheep breeders. Now, as the idea has taken hold, the market for new options now includes Heritage Hair Sheep as part of the Livestock Conservancy’s exciting program.

Each fiber provider has to be a member of the Livestock Conservancy. It is as easy as calling them and setting up your information. As a provider, you register and they send you stickers that you fill out about the breed, the date the fiber is sold and who sold the fiber. The artisan places the sticker in a “passport” book that they can turn in for prizes when complete stating that they have projects done for many conservancy Livestock sheep breeds. The main requirement is 4 ounces of material/fiber must be used in each project to qualify. The going rate for 4 oz of St Croix Hair Sheep fiber is \$10.00. Fiber artists will pay for the unwashed clean fiber including shipping costs. A gallon bag works well for 4 plus oz. and then place in an envelope and mail.

Artisans are generally excited to work with new materials and all that have inquired are very excited for hair sheep fiber. It will certainly be interesting to see what they come up with. If you have an interest to see what’s going on, check out Shave ‘Em to Save ‘Em on Facebook and you will see the conversations that are happening. It will be interesting to see what creative people can come up with for our beautiful St Croix Hair!

For more information, please visit: <https://livestockconservancy.org/index.php/involved/internal/SE2>

Join their Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SE2SE/>



## LAMB CHOPS SIZZLED WITH GARLIC

*Courtesy of Food & Wine Magazine*

### INGREDIENTS

- Eight 1/2-inch-thick lamb loin chops (about 2 pounds), fatty tips trimmed
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- Pinch of dried thyme
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 10 small garlic cloves, halved
- 3 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons minced parsley
- Pinch of crushed red pepper

### DIRECTIONS

#### STEP 1

Season the lamb with salt and pepper and sprinkle lightly with thyme. In a very large skillet, heat the olive oil until shimmering. Add the lamb chops and garlic and cook over moderately high heat until the chops are browned on the bottom, about 3 minutes. Turn the chops and garlic and cook until the chops are browned, about 2 minutes longer for medium meat. Transfer the chops to plates, leaving the garlic in the skillet.

#### STEP 2

Add the water, lemon juice, parsley and crushed red pepper to the pan and cook, scraping up any browned bits stuck to the bottom, until sizzling, about 1 minute. Pour the garlic and pan sauce over the lamb chops and serve immediately.

# SAVE THE DATE



## 2020 SCHSIA ANNUAL MEETING

August 7 - 8, 2020

**Thursday, August 6, 2020:** Suggested arrival in Richmond

**Friday, August 7, 2020:** Education Day and University Farm Tour with Dr Wildeus.

**Saturday, August 8, 2020:** SCHSIA annual business meeting and group dinner.

**VISIT:** [www.stcroixhairsheep.org](http://www.stcroixhairsheep.org) for details

The meeting will be held in Richmond, VA at VA State University. Dr Stephen Wildeus, PhD will be our host and speaker. Dr Wildeus is a St Croix enthusiast. He was director at St Croix University, before coming to VA State over 25 years ago. His research interests are genetic preservation for St Croix, sustainable production systems for meat sheep, and assisted reproductive technologies for small ruminants. He is one of the pioneers in AI and Embryo transfer in sheep. He has a flock of St Croix and Barbados Blackbelly's on the university farm.

Richmond VA has many tourist attractions within an hour drive from the University. Williamsburg and Monticello (birth place of Thomas Jefferson), just to name two. Both attractions are agriculture/historical focused and even have sheep on the premises. Washington DC and VA Beach are also close by. I encourage members to add a few days to your itinerary to enjoy this historical area of our country this Fall. The weather should be perfect.

At this point, your Board of Directors is forging ahead with plans for our Annual Meeting in August. Because of the recent Covid-19 crisis, this could change our plans, but we will have this event in place and will be ready to proceed if possible. Please make plans to join us as we learn about and promote our St Croix Hair Sheep!

So that we may get an idea of numbers, please let **SCHSIA Secretary Laurel Field** know if you:

- Plan to Attend
- May Attend
- Send Regrets.

**Laurel Field**

*SCHSIA Secretary*

503.263.6376

3sisters@harvcap.com



*Fig Hill Farm*

*Bucket Head Farms*

*Ellis Sheep Company*

*American Heritage Farm*

**SEND US YOUR PICTURES ON FACEBOOK FOR A CHANCE  
TO BE FEATURED ON THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!**



<https://www.stcroixhairsheep.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCHSIA/>



**Preserving Breed Standards since 1983**

secretary@stcroixhairsheep.org

8835 S. Lone Elder Rd  
Canby, Oregon 97013