

2016 Annual Membership Meeting at Salem, Oregon labeled huge success by those attending

The 2016 Annual Membership Meeting of the St. Croix Hair Sheep International Association was held in conjunction with the Oregon State Fair on August 26th and 27th at Salem, Oregon. The event covered two days with an education day on Friday with two featured speakers and extra education materials available. There was free admission to the Oregon State Fair on Friday for the St. Croix Open Feature Breed Sheep Show and free sea food banquet that evening at the Newport Bay Seafood Grill. On Saturday morning the Annual Membership meeting was held followed by raffled door prizes. The entire event was completed with a free lunch at the Almost Home Restaurant. Those attending had the remainder of the weekend to enjoy the fair or tour the State Capital or other sites in the State of Oregon. All of this was available of a nominal registration fee of \$25.



The educational portion featured Mr. Brian Thomas, an Oregon State Wildlife Service Agent of some 17 years experience speaking on predator control. Mr. Thomas covered several types of predator with the main emphasis on coyotes. Mr. Thomas's down home speaking style and interaction with the audience was a hit and generated numerous questions that added to the presentation. His emphasis was on not making it easy for the predator to approach ones herd. Fences inside fences are good and buffer zones help to dissuade coyote approach.



Mr. Thomas was followed by Dr. Charles T. Estill, VMD, PhD and is a Diplomat of the American College of Theriogenology. Dr. Estill is a professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University. His presentation on “Early Detection of Sheep Diseases” was extraordinary. His presentation started with a definition of Syndrome which in his mind is symptoms, characteristics, signs which characterize a particular disorder. He basically said to observe what a sheep presents to the owner. First have in mind what healthy sheep look like, what type body

condition they have and what is the normal body temperature, respiration rate, rumen contraction rate and heart rate and compare with other flock members. Dr. Estill covered body condition (thinness), scouring, coughing, bloating, limping (foot problems), not eating, paleness of eye lid or gum tissue (indicates anemia) and grinding teeth (pain). His presentation was followed with a session of questions and answers.

Both speakers were well received by those attending. There were Thirty-three attending the scientific session from across the United States. There were breeders from California, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Oregon.



On Friday evening at 5PM, the Open St. Croix Sheep Show took place in the sheep arena at the Oregon State Fair as the Feature Sheep Breed of the fair. This is the only open St. Croix Breed show in the United States. There were thirteen show classes. There was a total of 65 sheep shown by eight Oregon breeders. Champion Ram and Reserve Champion Ram were won by Sue Swan. The Champion Ram Perpetual Trophy is sponsored by SCHSIA and was presented in memory of Bill Wire by his wife Marilyn Wire. Champion Ewe and Reserve Champion Ewe also went to Sue Swan. The Champion Ewe Perpetual Trophy is sponsored by the Dorsey-Lee Farm in memory of Josephine Swan. Get-of-Sire, Oregon State Fair Special Award Get-of-Sire, and Flock went to Ed and Linda Barnes. Best Pair went to Laurel Field. The Best Pair Perpetual trophy is sponsored by SCHSIA. Premier Breeder award presented by the fair board went to Sue Swan.

Those showing their sheep were: Mindy Fenwick of JMS Farm, Brian and Laurel Field of Three Sisters Livestock, Ed and Linda Barnes of Dorsey-Lee St Croix, John and Vicki Hamstreet of Dreamfield Farm, Sue Swan of Pink Lady St. Croix, Bill Swan of The Swan Ranch, Chrystie Crawford and Ely Crawford.

Friday evening after the sheep were put to bed, meeting attendees enjoyed a delicious sea food banquet at Newport Bay Seafood Grill. Good food, libation, and joyful fellowship abounded.



Saturday morning at 9:30 AM, the Annual Membership Meeting took place at Shilo Inn Suites. President Rob Bass asked attendees to introduce themselves and personally introduced Marilyn Wire (wife of deceased former Board member, Bill Wire) and explained the Champion Ram trophy at the sheep show presented in Bill's name for his dedication to the breed.

A special plaque was presented to long time member, Vicki Hamstreet for her service from 2006-2016 as treasurer for the Association. Vicki was also instrumental in saving the Association in 2012.

President Bass followed usual meeting agenda format to bring the attending membership up to date concerning registration and transfer data as well as membership growth. Gary Keibler, treasurer, related the financial health of the Association. Updates for the newsletter, website revision, development of the new Association brochure, use of face book as a communication tool and advertising for 2017 were discussed. Laurel Field passed out the new brochures to those who wanted them.

President Bass asked for input from the membership. A discussion on getting new and retaining members followed. Some interest was observed in getting shows in other areas of the USA. John Hamstreet mentioned that there was a need for clarification of the breed standard for sheep show judges so the playing field is level. President Bass asked John to chair a committee to look into this topic.

President Bass said that the next Annual Meeting should probably be somewhere in the east or mid west to help include members in that part of the USA. Further discussion will be taken up in future Board meetings.

After adjournment of the meeting, raffle door prizes were given to the membership attending. Donations came from:

1. Genecheck : certificates for checking scrapie resistance
2. Sheep Magazine: one year subscription
3. Capital Press: one year subscription to the AG magazine
4. Vicki Hamstreet: newborn lamb rain coats
5. Vanessa Harris: embroidered shirts, hats and carry bag
6. Ed Barnes: serving tray, lazy- susan trivet and coasters

The membership only had to walk across the parking lot of Shilo Inn Suites to attend the free lunch at Almost Home restaurant. A lovely meal was enjoyed by all and capped a truly great meeting.