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**Preserving Breed Standards since 1983**

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End of Year 2023 NEWSLETTER

# SCHSIA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

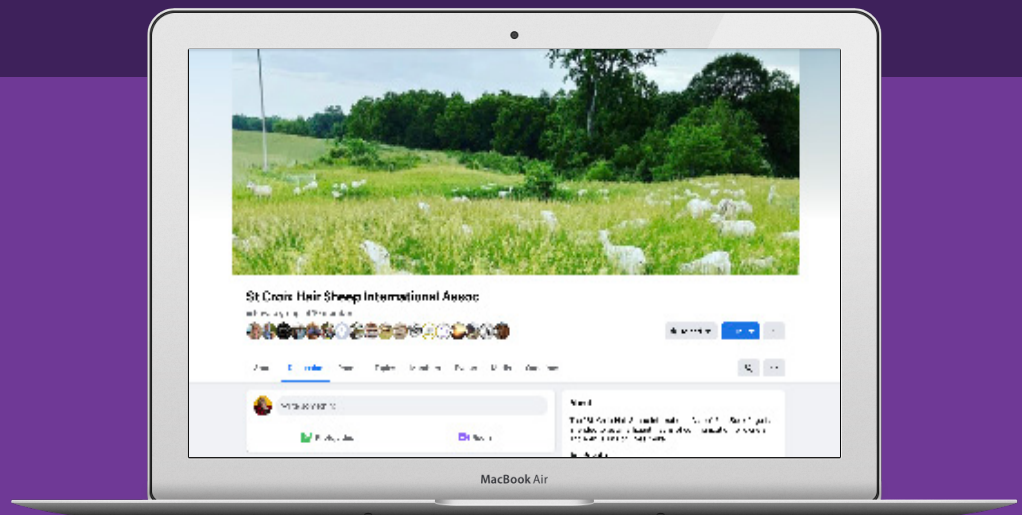
Hello and greetings to all SCHSIA members,

I wanted to thank all of the members for their support and for being a member of our association. As I wind down my term as president, I think back to all of the great members I have meet and worked with over the years and feel very blessed to part of the association. As you will see in the newsletter it is election time and we have a great slate of new officers. I am expecting great things from them. I hope you will show them the same support and help that you have offered to me.

I would also encourage each of you to continue to your St. Croix story. By doing so you will continue to help grow the breed and the association.

I would like to offer to each of you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Rob Bass  
President SCHSIA  
rbass07@yahoo.com



## CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Thanks to all of you, our great members, the SCHSIA Facebook page is up about 12 members a month and we are now at 944 members! The admins are grateful that we seem to only attract people who have a real interest in raising or learning about White and Polled St Croix! In all the time we have had a FB presence, we have only had 2 scammers that were found out and dealt with quickly. We haven't had anyone causing trouble now in a long time. If you ever experience anything that seems like it doesn't fit, let us know.

By the numbers:

56% of men participate.

37% are women

35-44 is the most engaged age group but we have everyone from 18 to 60 plus.

We have 10 countries participating as well.

### **FB Rules re-do:**

No Sales or hint at sales!!

Pictures must be of or have only white and polled St Croix in them. Keeping the brand folks!

SCHSIA has the right to use posted pictures for the newsletter or FB.

Always be kind and courteous. We are here to enjoy and learn from each other.

We THANK YOU again and hope you are enjoying our social media presence!

# Save the Dates

## Annual Meeting 2024

We are excited to announce that the 2024 St. Croix Hair Sheep Annual Meeting will be held in Springfield, Missouri! It is going to be held in conjunction with the annual Ozark FarmFest held October 4th, 5th, and 6th 2024.

We would like to encourage Members to make arrangements to bring thier Sheep along if possible so they can be exhibited during the weekend show.

We will post more details of this event as it gets closer to October, we just want to give everyone plenty of notice so plans can be made to attend.

More details to follow soon!

## Other Dates to Watch for...

51st Annual Sheep and Goat Field Day and 2024 Texas Sheep and Goat Expo  
San Angelo TX  
Friday and Saturday, August 2024 (dates to be determined)

Missouri State Fair  
Missouri State Fairgrounds, 2503 W 16th St, Sedalia, MO 65301  
August 8th through the 18th, 2024  
(Travis Ellis and Jesse Rainey are trying to get St. Croix exhibited)

Oregon State Fair  
Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, Salem OR,  
August 23th through September 2nd 2024

45th Annual Ozark Fall Farmfest  
Springfield MO  
October. 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2024



Ellis Sheep Co.

If any Member has a event they would like to share I will get it add to the list.

Just email anything you would like shared to ([theraineyfarm06@gmail.com](mailto:theraineyfarm06@gmail.com))

# 2023 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

## The St. Croix Hair Sheep International Association's Annual Meeting is in the books for 2023

Thirteen Farms made the trip to attend this year's event held at North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Oregon State University. We had a GREAT lineup for speakers at our SCHSIA Annual meeting on Friday the 28th of July!

- Brian Thomas- USDA Wildlife Services for Predator Control speaking on options specifically for sheep producers.
- Hayley White- Small Farms Outreach Coordinator for Oregon State University Extension: Pasture Management Tailored to Sheep Producers.
- Suzi Cloutier- Conservation Specialist with the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District: Mud and Manure Management for small farms.

We then went to Brian and Laurel Fields house for an evening of socializing and playing cornhole.

SCHSIA business meeting was completed Saturday the 29th of July! We heard from President Rob Bass, Treasurer Lydia Rodriguez and Secretary Jesse Rainey. Had great discussions for the good of the St Croix Hair Sheep International Assoc and our finale was Maddie Iverson PDX and our new website coming soon!

We then distributed all the raffle items that were donated by companies and individuals before we headed on a tour of the North Willamette Research and Extension Center with Marc Anderson.





# Texas Sheep and Goat Expo 2023

Our President Rob Bass was there to represent the St. Croix Hair Sheep this year. He reported back saying it was a larger crowd than last year.

Maybe next year we can get some more Farms out to this event to exhibit Our Breed and spread the word.

## Oregon State Fair



This year The Champion Ram was awarded to “Tanner Farm”, Eli Crawford,

Champion Ewe was awarded to “Dorsey/Lee Farm”, Ed and Linda Barnes, and Best Pair was also awarded to them.

The Dorsey/Lee Farm was also awarded the St. Croix Premier Exhibitor’s banner for the most points awarded to a breeder.



# The 2023 Oregon State Fair

Written by Linda & Ed Barnes

The routine for us goes as follows: Select your show stock: Give them a good bath (no clipping allowed). We like to show two animals in each class if possible, so 2 Yearling Rams (1/1/22-9/1/23), 2 Senior Ram Lambs (9/1/22-12/31/22- also qualifies as yearling ram following year as he is under 2 years of age), 2 Intermediate Ram Lambs (1/1/23-2/14/23), 2 Junior Ram Lambs (2/15/23-6/1/23). Then you select your two best ram lambs for the “Pair of Ram Lambs class”, then comes the Championship class where the 1st and 2nd in each class are brought out and the Champion and Reserve Champion Rams are chosen. Next comes the ewe classes. They are just the same as the ram classes except they have a pair of Yearling Ewes class. Then comes the group classes, Young Flock (1 ram lamb and 2 ewe lambs), Get of Sire, 4 animals both sexes presented sired by the same ram), Flock, 2 yearling ewes/ 2 ewe lambs and a ram, winding up with Best Pair. There are three perpetual trophies presented, a Champion Ram, Champion Ewe and Best Pair. These are to be returned the following year after you have had your name engraved on it. A plaque is given to each trophy winner for them to keep.

Leading up to “show time” is the most work of all. Dragging all your booth stuff for set up to your pen area, setting it all up, bedding the pens, dragging the sheep to their pens, getting your entries checked in, feeding and watering the flock, then and only then, can you sit back and relax a bit. About this time (and you can count on it) one of the sheep will get the runs from being upset with the whole thing and a couple will lay in it before you can get it cleaned up. Back to the showers you go. However we all help each other and wind up having fun after all.

Since we have to be at the fair a couple of days before we show, it gives us time to visit with fair goers and tell them about our animals. After being at the fair for 20 some years, there are still several folks that claim they have never heard of or seen the St. Croix breed. From several of these encounters we have sold quite a few of our St. Croix and helped other members do the same. Since there is a steady flow of people coming and going for several days, we really do get to spread the word about the St. Croix breed. We really are surprised that other breeders don't put together a St. Croix show at their local or State Fairs. It's really not that hard to do. The Oregon State Fair is the only one in the entire country and it generates a great promotional opportunity for the St. Croix breed.



# 2023 Ozark FarmFest



On the first weekend in October, the Midwest traveled to Springfield, MO to attend the Ozark Fall FarmFest. This event is like no other. It is a HUGE farm show, where there are over 1,000 vendors and over 600 head of registered animals for sale or on display. The animals include, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, cattle, and horses. This event is a free event to attend. Approximately 60,000 people come through the 3 day event.

The St Croix Hair Sheep International Association purchased a booth to promote our association. Three farms exhibited and sold rams during the show. The farms were, The Rainey Farm from Seymour, MO, Pine Valley Flocks from Flint, TX, and Ellis Sheep Co. from Maysville, MO.

St. Croix Hair Sheep were very well received again this year. Many people had never heard of the breed, so educating the public about our breed and our association was a great experience. It's estimated that we talked to 1,500 people in the 3 days. That doesn't include the hundreds of people that walked by the pens and looked at the sheep. A big hit for all of us exhibitors was getting sheep out of the pens for kids to pet.

On Saturday night, the association hosted a dinner for members that came to Farm Fest. Fifteen people from 5 farms met at Springfield Brewing Co. to sit down and share a meal together. Jesse and I gave a brief overview what the board is doing and the events that the association has sponsored and attended.

Make plans to attend the 2024 Ozark Fall Farm Fest as the St. Croix Hair Sheep International Association will hold their annual meeting there. The dates will be October 4-6, 2024. We will be sending out several reminders and details in 2024, so keep an eye out for more information.



The Rainey Farm and Pine Valley Flocks letting the kids pet their sheep!!

## Election 2023 Updates

The election process for SCHSIA is detailed in our By-Laws. In October, members in good standing were sent an email with the slate of nominees for the Board of Director positions open in 2024. Members were encouraged to review the slate and send any "write in" nominees to Maggie Alcorn by November 1, 2023. No additional nominations were received, so our slate has passed. This is an outstanding Board of Directors for 2024. Please Note: Odd Regional Directors were due for a full term vote. Region 4 is an interim term with Laurel Fields moving into the Vice President Role. Please congratulate:

President: Travis Ellis

Vice President: Laurel Fields

Treasurer: Lydia Rodriguez

Secretary: Maggie Alcorn

Region 1 (Eastern US) Director: Barbara Salisbury

Region 3 (South Central US) Director: Keith Stephens

Region 4 (Western US including Alaska and Hawaii) Interim Director: Ed Barnes

Director at Large: Rob Bass



# Ram Selection

There is a saying that “the ram is “half the flock.” The basis for this statement is that his genetics will be spread over many more offspring than a ewe’s will. After several seasons of use, more than 90 percent of the genetics in the flock will be influenced by a single ram. The ram is the primary means by which genetic improvement will be made in a flock.

If a ram’s daughters will be retained in the flock for breeding purposes, he should be born as a twin or triplet and/or come from a productive ewe or family line. His dam should be one of the most productive members of the flock. Reproduction should always be maximized relative to the production environment. Multiple births may not be advisable in all production environments, but a higher reproductive rate will yield greater profits in almost all production environments. Some rams and breeds have genetic values (e.g. EBVs) for reproductive and fitness (e.g. parasite resistance) traits.

If the ram will be used to sire market lambs, he should be of adequate frame size (for his breed), well-grown for his age and plane of nutrition, and well-muscled. You can tell how thickly muscled a ram is by feeling how wide and deep his loin is and by measuring the circumference of his lower leg with your hands. The forearm is another good indicator of muscling. Heavy-boned animals are usually more heavily muscled than lighter boned ones. Ultrasound can be used to more accurately measure muscling. Some rams and breeds have genetic values for growth and muscling (loin depth).

When visually appraising rams, you should be much more critical than you are with ewes. If a ram has a serious physical defect or other genetic flaw, many lambs could be potentially impacted, including potential replacement lambs. Ideally, only the top five percent of rams from a farm’s lamb crop should be considered for breeding. Just because a ram has testicles doesn’t mean he should be allowed to mate with ewes.

Ideally, a breeding soundness exam (BSE) should be conducted on any ram that is purchased for breeding. A breeding soundness exam evaluates the ram’s breeding potential and includes a physical exam and semen test. Ideally, a serving capacity test is included. A serving capacity test evaluates a ram’s desire to mate with ewes. Some studies have found that more than 10 percent of rams are homosexual and will not mate with ewes.

If rams are not tested for fertility and will be used in single-sire mating systems, a marking harness or raddle paint should be used to monitor breeding activity. The color of the paint or crayon should be changed approximately every 17 days, as this is the average length of the ewe’s estrus (heat) cycle. You should start with lighter colors, so that you are able to identify re-marks.

Producers should be willing to pay much more for rams than ewes. The old rule of thumb is that a ram is worth five times the value of a market lamb. If market lambs are worth \$200, you should be willing to pay \$1000 for a ram with superior genetics. It is better to start with mediocre ewes (so long as they are healthy) and a superior ram rather than superior ewes and a mediocre ram.

From: Sheep 201 : A Beginner’s Guide to Raising Sheep



Jeb Baker

## Welcome Our New Members of 2023

Bill Anton - Find-A-Wheel - Oregon City, OR  
Chase Colbert - Colbert Farm - Poplarville, MS  
Troy and Andrea Smith - Blackthorn Ranch - Iola, TX  
Brandi Kellum - Boos Lake Farm - Lindstrom, MN  
Daniel Ochylski - High Meadow Lane - Greenville, VA  
Allen Whitehouse - Evansville, IN  
Joseph Burns - Burns Family Trust - Medon, TN  
Gussie R Thomas - Heavenly Acres - Clarksdale, MS  
Mikeal Birdsley - Dora, MO  
Lacey A Bishop - Collierville, TN  
Jeb Baker - Jackson, KY  
Kathryn V Richardson - Jetta Jack Ranch LLC - Pine Isand, MN  
Caleb and Heather Pryor - Diamond Sheep - Ludlow, MO  
Keila Marrero - Berry Tiny Bit Farms - Gallatin, TN  
Nicholas Norris - DrangonFly Ranch - CAve City, AR  
Mika Killgore - Gainesboro, TN  
Jason Vasconi - Lazy Ewe Farm - Santa Fe, TX  
Misty Presley - Presley Ranch - Ravenden, AR  
Dan or Rochelle Harris - Harrisiana - Dandridge, TN  
Morris A. Esmiol III - Three Eagles Heritage - Miami, OK 74354  
Harold Glover - Leanin Star Farms - Palestine, TX 75803  
Sharlane Clattenburg - Clattenburg Ranch - Amite, LA 70422



Lesniak Farm

Weber Double L Acres



## CURRENT SCHSIA BOARD MEMEBERS

**PRESIDENT:** Rob Bass, Just Right Ranch, Palestine, TX

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Travis Ellis, Ellis Sheep Company, Maysville, MO

**TREASURER:** Lydia Rodriguez, D & L RANCH, Stuart, OK

**SECRETARY:** Maggie Alcorn, Alcorn Farms, Simpsonville, KY

**WESTERN DIRECTOR:** Laurel Field, Three Sisters Livestock, Canby, OR

**SOUTH CENTRAL DIRECTOR:** Keith Stephens, Anexso Farm, Linden, TX

**NORTH CENTRAL DIRECTOR:** Jesse Rainey, The Rainey Farm, Seymour, MO

**EASTERN DIRECTOR:** Barbara Salisbury, Dominion Farm, Quicksburg, VA

**AT LARGE DIRECTOR/PAST PRESIDENT:** Kaleb Kahl, Kahl Farm, Bunker Hill, IL

Please reach out to the director in your area for questions, concerns and ideas!

## A BIG Welcome to New Members!

This fall I have implemented sending welcome letters to all our new members! I think it is very important to reach out to the new members and welcome them and go over a few resources SCHSIA has for our members. Since this is new, I wanted to communicate with everyone the content of the letters.

First and foremost, the Board of Directors are here as a resource for everyone! You can find the list of Board members, our addresses and emails on the SCHSIA website. Read this newsletter and hear more about our new website that is coming soon! Also, our Facebook page. It is a great resource for questions and topics. There is no selling of sheep on the Facebook page, but we encourage questions, pictures of your flock, and comments. Lots of folks put questions on the page. I always learn something new when I visit the Facebook page. Also, I send new members a brochure on the SCHSIA. It gives members great talking points when asked about our breed!

I encourage everyone to plan to attend our annual meeting. In 2023, our meeting was in Oregon. It was fantastic! In 2024, our annual meeting will be in Springfield, MO at the Ozark Farm Fest. There is an article in this newsletter regarding our preliminary plans for this meeting. Please make every effort to attend!

I encourage all new members and current members to get involved in our organization. It is how we all learn and network with one another. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me. It's a privilege to serve you.  
Maggie Alcorn, Secretary

What's a Ram's favorite letter?



Double Ewe!!!

## 16 REASONS TO CHOOSE ST. CROIX HAIR SHEEP

1. Highest Parasite Resistance
2. No shearing
3. High Lambing Percentages
4. Good Mothers
5. Early Puberty
6. Lamb at 12 Months
7. High Lamb Survivability
8. Good Flocking Instincts
9. Good Milking Ability
10. Hoof Rot Resistant
11. Fly Strike Resistant
12. Non-Selective Grazers
13. Both Sexes Polled
14. Good Temperament
15. Heat and Cold Tolerant
16. Fine Grained Low Fat Meat





Three Sisters Livestock



Water's Edge Ranch



The Rainey Farm



TLC Fresh Farm, LLC

POST YOUR PICTURES ON FACEBOOK FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!



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



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



Preserving Breed Standards since 1983

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