



Preserving Breed Standards since 1983

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

SCHSIA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to all SCHSIA members,

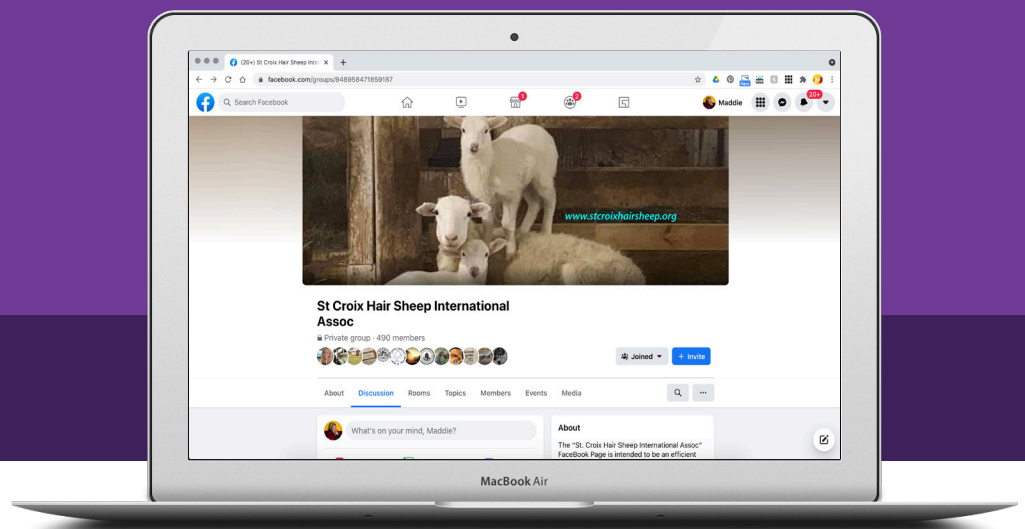
Our lambing season has come and gone and I am happy to report we had no death loss and no orphans and 200+% lamb crop. Can't ask for better than that.

While things have been "different" this past year, they haven't been bad for our association. Our membership and registration numbers are very good and due to lack of an in-person meeting last year, we have a healthier than normal bank account. While on that topic we are continuing to work toward planning an event for this year. Details will be circulated as soon as they are available. The interest in St. Croix is greater than ever. Breeders are having more and more rams sold into commercial flocks as well as new breeders starting registered flocks. As I have mentioned before, please make every effort to explain the importance of keeping up registration on animals that you sell. Some folks only want the benefits and characteristics of the breed and are not concerned about registering animals. If paperwork is kept up it helps the breeder with selling animals in the future and also helps the breed overall.

Here is a bit of advice as far as genetics goes! Anytime a new genetic cross is made for the first time, it is a gamble of sorts. Many times a new ram will have mixed results throughout the flock as far as look or performance of a lamb crop. This is to be expected when breeding to a flock with a diverse background of genetics or bloodlines. However, with a tightly bred flock which all have a more uniform lineage it can somewhat be expected that the lamb crop will be more uniform. With this being said, just keep in mind that while you may expect the offspring to be uniform you will not know outcome of the cross until it happens. Just food for thought and something to consider as you might not want to not put all your eggs in one basket when breeding to new blood.

Thanks for your time and good luck with your flock.

Kaleb Kahl
President SCHSIA
Kalebkahl@gmail.com



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 5th year! Though we are a closed group, we have over 490 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

SAVE THE DATE

2021 ANNUAL MEETING



The Board of Directors are pleased to announce that we now have the details of our 2021 Annual Meeting which will be held August 20 - 21 in the beautiful historic district of Williamsburg, Virginia.

3pm Friday, August 20: Business Meeting

8am - 4pm Saturday, August 21: Field Day at VSU Farm

Field day will be August 21, 2021 at Virginia State University's farm in Petersburg, VA
<https://www.ext.vsu.edu/small-ruminants>, featuring Dr. Stephan Wildeus, PhD
<https://www.iga-goatworld.com/.../profile-dr-stephan-wildeus>, renowned small-ruminant authority.

If you plan to attend, please go to our event registration web page and register. Here's the link:
<http://www.mtn-niche-web.net/.../schsia-annual-meeting-2021/> Details on hotel reservations are here as well.

There is a \$25 registration fee that can be paid during registration on the website through PayPal, or you can opt to mail a check. The registration fee will increase to \$50 on August 1st so be sure to register soon!

This should be a wonderful time renewing friendships and engaging new ones. We have some amazing door prizes and Dr. Wildeus is looking forward to showing off the research facility and talking to us about what he is learning.

Plan to stay a few extra days and enjoy the area with so many things to see and do.

Please plan to join us if you can! We will look forward to seeing you!

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



SOUTHERN CENTRAL DIRECTOR

Keith Stephens, Anexso Farm, Linden, TX

After being raised in rural North Texas, it was a desire to obtain land during our early marriage with my wife, Karen. In 1993, upon moving to East Texas, the land purchased provided a place where my two sons learned to hunt, fish, as well as, develop an understanding of sustainable agriculture and land management. We got into the goat market. Our attempt to raise goats was unsustainable due to the our high humidity, rain and their constant need for worming. At that time, our quest for an alternative livestock began. During the course of several years, I traveled to St. Croix for business and would see St. Croix sheep out in the tropical mountainous areas surviving in suboptimal conditions. Research led me to the St. Croix Hair Sheep and I have developed a passion for this breed. While maintaining a day job in the chemical industry, we currently have 32 ewes with hopes to continue to increase our flock size.

The most rewarding experience in representing the Board's South Central Director position is educating people about this phenomenal breed of sheep. Besides sheep, our sustainable farm has an apiary, chickens, muscadines, and fields of wild flowers. Please call or come see us at Anexso Farm.



NORTH CENTRAL DIRECTOR

Travis Ellis, Ellis Sheep Company, Maysville, MO.

I'm Travis Ellis. My wife, Melissa, along with our 3 year old son, Tyce, own Ellis Sheep Co. We live near Maysville, Missouri! We became members of SCHSIA in December 2019. We get all of the seasons here. Sometimes all 4 in one day! We get from hot and humid to frigid cold and everything in between. We are currently running 41 bred ewes. We love the St. Croix breed for their parasite resistance, hardiness, and being such great mothers! Thank you for letting me represent you in the North Central region.

My favorite and best reason I got St. Croix would be the parasite resistance. However, since I've got them, it's been the great mothering and docile nature of the flock! I also love how they are non selective grazers.



WESTERN DIRECTOR

Ed Barnes, Dorsey lee Farm, Portland, OR.

Originally raising wool breeds since 1968, Ed and Linda Barnes heard about St. Croix from one of Ed's patients, Bob, around 1989 and were immediately interested once they saw them in person. They eventually bought the flock from him and started their St. Croix journey. They showed their flock with their family at the county and state fairs and found success growing their herd. They have raised over 450 registered St. Croix sheep and have raised over 600 sheep through their journey and have sold sheep all over the US and the Philippines. Ed and Linda proudly had a hand in establishing the original breed standards for the St. Croix, helping start the Oregon State St. Croix Show at the State Fair and have both served on the board in different capacities for many years.

Linda and I love the personalities of the sheep and the amazing care the mothers give their young lambs. We have never been a large breeding farm so many of the ewes become old friends.



EASTERN DIRECTOR

From Susan Brooks, Brooks Farm, Bethpage, TN.

My favorite thing about my St Croix sheep is the relationship that develops over years with certain sheep. They seem to know that we are there to help and protect them, even as they resist hoof-trimming and pulling off shreds of loose winter coat. I love how rewarding it is to watch "bottle babies" grow up to be good Mamas, and still enjoy a little human love. We have a fellow who we weathered, just so we could keep him. He is a real sweetheart, and a great companion to any sheep he's in a field with.

We have those lambs who pretend they don't like people, but still sidle up to us to see if we have a treat for them. I've heard that it's bad farming practice to become emotionally attached to livestock, but it has certainly enriched my experience as a shepherdess. St Croix are just really easy to love!

NOT PICTURED:

Vice President

Rob Bass, Just Right Ranch, Palestine, TX

Director-at-Large

Brent VanSickle, Goose Creek Farm, Trafalgar, ID

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



TREASURER

Gary Keibler, Hemmer Hill Farm, Crestwood, KY.

This will be my sixth (and last) year as Treasurer of SCHSIA. Prior to that, I served as President for 3 years starting with our split from the "Breeders Assn." resulting in the reinstatement to the original association begun in 1983. Joyce served on the board prior to me and has coordinated several annual meetings including one at our farm in 2012.

Our favorite thing about St. Croix sheep is their wonderful maternal instinct. In our 15 years of breeding them we've never had a mom abandon her newborn. In most instances, they will successfully nurse 3 or even 4 lambs. I've seen one Mom chase our 100# Labradoodle out of the pasture and through the barn when he was threatening her new lambs. Of course, due to their inherent parasite resistance, size, and calm nature they are extremely easy keepers. This was a big reason we chose them, over several other breeds, when we started.

Joyce and I always enjoy meeting our fellow shepherds and therefore look forward to our annual meeting.

Hope to see you there this year.

SECRETARY

Laurel Field, Three Sisters Livestock, Canby, OR

Laurel Field was raised in Golden, Colorado and was a verified horse girl growing up. She married Brian Field in 1985 after they had met at Colorado State University where she earned her BS degree in Animal Science. After living in several states and landing in Oregon, Brian and Laurel raised three girls and wanted them to have animal chores as they grew up and expose them to agriculture in a way they could enjoy and learn. Brian told the girls many stories about his family's ranch and the sheep while they were growing up.

At the Oregon State Fair, in 2001, they happened upon the St Croix and how friendly they were noticing that they would be great sheep for the girls to start with. As a family they showed their St Croix at the county and state level and enjoyed the many years. As the girls graduated from high school, the sheep then became Laurel's and she continued forward to today raising and enjoying the family St Croix. Laurel has served as the NW Director for the SCHSIA and currently serves as the secretary. Laurel still enjoys riding her horses and currently runs between 15 and 20 breeding ewes.

I love that St. Croix are "pet quality" animals. Part of their easy care. The quality of the meat is also phenomenal.



PRESIDENT

Kaleb and Lindsey Kahl, Kahl Farm, Bunker Hill, IL

Having raised purebred St. Croix since 2008 we have culled very hard to develop animals that are self sufficient here in our environment. The low maintenance factor being what had drawn me to the breed initially, I decided that it was essential to have animals capable of doing so on only what was available to them naturally. Keeping only the best animals weeds out those that can't cut it. Once the capable animals are identified then the improvements could begin physically. Strong feet and legs were first. Good milk, body capacity, and overall structure are always determining factors in retaining future breeding stock.

After picking up breeding stock from a few breeders and making crosses back and forth, it took several years before we knew which crosses produced offspring that would cross well back on each other. Once we were able to know what we could expect, we were then comfortable to try some outside crosses. Our flock has been bred pretty tightly while still having animals that carry high percentages of specific bloodlines that can be crossed back into the flock when desired. This has given us a set of sheep that do well for us here where we see temps from -10 to 110. Native pastures of mainly fescue with humid summers can be hard on grazing animals but making sure enough forage is available ensures pastures aren't over grazed. The flock is wintered on standing grass and grass hay.

We love the breed and all their great characteristics.

WHY EAT LAMB?

ZINC

Aids in metabolism, digestion, and nerve function.

CREATINE

Helps muscle cells produce energy and supports their function.

IRON

High in Heme Iron which is more readily absorbed by the body.

PHOSPHORUS

Essential to build strong bones and teeth and also maintain cells.

CLA

Only in ruminant animal meat, promotes fat loss and muscle building.

TAURINE

An antioxidant in the body that protects against oxidative damage.

SELENIUM

Works with iodine to maintain proper thyroid function.





Sally's 3 Mill Ranch



Sweet Valley Farm



Ellis Sheep Company



Lesniak Farm



Anexso Farm

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

secretary@stcroixhairsheep.org

8835 S. Lone Elder Rd
Canby, Oregon 97013