



NEW ENGLAND SHEEP & WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

November 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello!! Here it is closing in on the end of 2009, seems the days just fly by, must be because we are so busy. By now the ewes should all be bred and most of us looking forward to a new lambing season, then fairs, festivals and all the other things this diverse group is involved in. As we look back on 2009, the accomplishments of the association are many. The newsletter after many years of being dormant has been revived thanks to the working of a group of folks. The scholarships and youth awards had a successful year thanks to a hard working committee. New England Sale was again well received with many entries -- as usual the Sale Committee continues to make a premier sale each year. The 25th anniversary of the Northeast Youth Show was this year and such a great way to showcase our youth and the wonderful facility we have to use. Thanks to the members of the Youth Show Committee and the Food Booth volunteers for a job well done. Then the time spent on the upcoming Fiber Festival of New England, we find ourselves blessed with a core group getting this huge task accomplished. Just after the first of the year we will be sending out our letters to vendors. If you have some free time we are always looking for volunteers. Partnering with the Big E, we have made the festival affordable for both the vendors and the public. Reading this newsletter and want to get the word out about the festival, please feel free to contact one of the committee members - we should have a "promo letter" ready to go soon.

Thanks for a great year - looking forward to another super year in 2010! So much good is happening. Happy Holidays, -John-

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OF

NEW ENGLAND SHEEP & WOOL GROWERS

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Becky Peterson, Manager

Fiber Festival Committee – Co-Chairpersons:
John Buffington and Donna Woolam

Carcass Committee- Co-Chairpersons:
Emily Yazwinski and Matt Parsons

Awards Committee – Co-Chairpersons:
Jessica Hopkins and Emmie Minter

Promotions Committee: Irene Nebiker

North East Youth Sheep Show – Co-Chairpersons:
Rolf Rhodes and Sarah Hopkins

Barbeque Committee: (members but no chair)

Nominating Committee: (members but no chair)

Hello Sheep Producers:

Well, here we are at the end of another year – where does the time go? Congratulations to all the New Englanders who did so well at NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky last week. I won't name them here as I may forget someone and I don't want to offend any fellow sheep breeder. I did watch many of the breed shows on line (at work) and the supreme

classes – how exciting that was!! Now you all can relax before the busy lambing starts. And while you are relaxing, think about volunteering for a committee or activity sponsored by the New England Sheep & Wool Growers. Come up with a new idea for an existing activity? Give the President a call or sent him an email. If it's to do with the Fiber Festival–he would love to talk to you about *that!* If you have an article of interest to other members, feel free to send it to me. (I need articles or reports of activities) Another newsletter will go out in late winter / early spring. I welcome any news – send it any time to me!

The Board of Directors will be meeting in December, if you have a concern or suggestion feel free to contact an officer or director. And for you Directors–mark your calendar the meeting will be Sunday December 6, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Mallory Complex office at the Eastern States Exposition.

Also, for the North East Youth Sheep Show Committee members–please mark your calendar for our meeting which will be on Sunday December 6, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mallory Complex office at the Big E fairgrounds.

At the end of this newsletter is the membership form for 2010. We hope you will send your dues soon and join us in supporting the sheep and wool industry in New England. (The dues are still \$10.00) If you are interested in joining one of the committees or have ideas for a particular committee, feel free to contact the chairperson or call our President.

A big *Thank You* to the following who helped me in providing information for this newsletter: Lisa Webster, Lucy Myers, Dean Hayward, Shawn Thayer, John Buffington, Sally Barney, Laurel Snook, Donna Woolam, Barbara Thompson, Buzz Johnson, Doug Gillespie, Bill Cournoyer, Scott Poitras, Kaitlin Lewis, Barbara Haberin, Holly Burdett, Katherine Petersson, Becky Peterson, and anyone I forgot (sorry!). Your help is greatly appreciated. Happy Lambing! *Polly Hopkins*- Editor



NORTH EAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW

The 25th Annual North East Youth Sheep Show took place on July 16th -19th at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. It was a great weekend with 210 kids showing 655 head of sheep in 15 breeds plus two AOB (meat &

wool) divisions. The judges for the weekend were Steve and Stacy Taylor and Ed Julien evaluating the sheep and fitting & showmanship classes, and Doris Powell judging the fleece show. The big winners were: Supreme Ram - Kaitlin Lewis (Cheviot), Supreme Ewe - Derek Wilson (Southdown), Supreme Market Lamb – Cody Coutts (AOB Heavyweight), Champion Sr. Showman – Dana Hayward (Southdown), Champion Jr. Showman – Holly Towne (Natural Colored), Champion Novice Showman – Jade Wilson (Southdown), Champion First Year Showman – Jessica Richard (Oxford), and Champion Fleece – Lindsey Drumm (White/Fine). All the results along with folders of pictures can be found on the New England Sheep & Wool Growers website located at: www.nesheep.org . Check it out !

Thank you goes out to all who helped run the weekend event and who helped make it such a success year after year (way too many names to include here). We would also like to thank all those who supported the show as a T-shirt sponsor, donations to your favorite breed, or for giving specific prizes. Without your contributions the weekend would not have been possible. And last but not least, a huge Thank You to everyone that donated items or who donated time and/or skills in the Fiber Nook at The Big E.

Plans are in the works for next years show, keep your eyes and ears open for the details – coming out in early spring! ☺

NEW ENGLAND SALE

The New England Sheep Show and Sale was held on July 17 & 18, 2009 at the Big E Fairgrounds, West Springfield, Massachusetts in the Mallory Agricultural Complex. Becky Peterson of Leyden, Massachusetts is the Sale Manager for this event. The show started Friday morning, and concluded Friday evening after the Barbeque Dinner with Supreme Selections. Winning the Supreme Ram award was Splendorview Farm of Cummington, Massachusetts, on their Late Spring Southdown Ram Lamb. The Supreme Ewe award went to Reid Family Oxfords, of Houstonia, Missouri, on their Early Spring Oxford Ewe Lamb. Pine Ridge Dorsets of New Berlin, Pennsylvania,

won the Townsend Best Consignment Award. There were 123 head of sheep sold on Saturday, with the average price being \$315.04.

Entry information for next year's sale will be mailed out during the winter months with entries due April 15th (this is open to all breeds). The Sale catalog becomes available by the end of May. Plan now to consign and support your local sale-contact Sale Manager Becky Peterson, at 413-624-5562 or ovfarm@verizon.net.

HARRY HARDWICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association presented two memorial scholarships this past July for \$750.00 each. These scholarships were presented to students who must have completed one-half of his or her college studies or be enrolled in graduate school. The first award went to a student who must be majoring in an agricultural field. The second awards goes to a student who was involved in 4H, FFA or has a youth sheep project background, but may be majoring in a non-agricultural field. These awards are available to residents of the New England States and Eastern New York State where the New England Sheep and Wool Growers have an appointed director or to students who themselves or families are members of NES&WGA. This year's scholarship winners were Aubrey Desjarlais, of Connecticut, (Ag scholarship) who attends the University of Connecticut, and Christopher Hopkins, of Rhode Island, (non-Ag scholarship) who attends Keene State College in New Hampshire.

NES&WG YOUTH GRANTS

New England Sheep & Wool Growers also gives three youth grants of \$150.00 annually. These cash awards are awarded to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding young men and women involved in the Northeast sheep industry for at least two years. The winners must be at least 12 years old and no older than 18 as of January 1st, must resident in one of the New England States or Eastern New York, or belong to the NES&WGA. The winners for the 2009 youth grants were: Alyssa Weld of Massachusetts and Dana Hayward, of Maine. As recipient of this award, the winners must

come back the following year to the NES&WG Annual Meeting and report on their sheep project.

If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested in applying for the scholarships or youth grants, information can be found on the website <http://www.nesheep.org> or contact Jessica Hopkins, 1125 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, RI 02857, telephone: 401-829-0095 or email: jhopkins4187@gmail.com. Deadline for the awards to be given in July 2010 will be May 1, 2010.

THANK YOU to all who made donations to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Zeke Young of Rhode Island who died this past July. Zeke was a continuous supporter of youth activities for many years and will truly be missed.

FIBER FESTIVAL PLANNED

The New England Sheep and Wool Growers and Eastern States Exposition have joined together to bring you the first annual Fiber Festival of New England to be held on November 6 & 7, 2010 at the Exposition Fairgrounds. Plans are underway for this venture which hopes to bring over 200 vendors of natural fiber related products to the general public. Also included in the event will be children's activities, displays of live animals and their contribution to the fiber industry, plus workshops and demonstrations related to all of the natural fibers and their presentation. Vendor applications will be available early January with deadline for submitting of March 31st. This is a juried festival and acceptance letters will go out by April 30th. Check the website for more information: www.nesheep.org and make plans now to join us in 2010.

Volunteers are needed for many tasks during the weekend. This is going to be an exciting venture, and invite all to join us as a volunteer, vendor, or demonstrator. Want to give a few hours of your time to help out and then shop – no problem, let us know. For questions, vendor applications or to volunteer (and/or come to the next meeting) contact Barbara Haberlin at beadsheep@charter.net or 508-637-1239.

PROJECT PROPOSAL:
Improving Small Ruminant
Parasite Control in New England

A multi-state project proposal targeting parasite control in small ruminants was recently submitted to the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, a competitive grants program administered by the USDA. If accepted for funding the project would start next year and last a total of three years. The goal of this project is a reduction in anthelmintic use and improved parasite resistance in sheep and goats in the region. Small ruminant producers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont will be the focus of the outreach component of this project. The educational approach taken in this project is comprised of surveys, workshops and on-site farm visits.

Before and after surveys will identify current parasite control practices and document any changes in control practices that occur over the project period. Two workshops per state per year will provide information on the latest research and hands-on training in the best management practices (BMP) for parasite control. Free on-site farm visits will evaluate parasite prevalence and drug resistance and will provide post-workshop follow-up and BMP support. The onsite farm visits will also assist producers in the identification of both parasite resistant and susceptible animals within their flocks/herds through the use of the FAMACHA card system, fecal egg counts and body condition scoring. Information arising from this project will be disseminated through extension, agricultural reports and periodicals, extension newsletters, university websites, agricultural events and presentations. In addition, research on the identification of potential natural de-wormers will be conducted at the University of Rhode Island in collaboration with Virginia Tech, Rutgers and the University of Wisconsin.

Extension and research faculty at seven universities are partners in this proposal: Dr. Katherine Petersson (Animal Scientist, Team Leader) and Kristen Castrataro (Extension Educator) from the University of Rhode Island,

Joyce Meader (Extension Educator) from the University of Connecticut, Dr. Mark Huyler (Animal Scientist) from the University of Massachusetts, Chet Parsons (Extension Educator) from the University of Vermont, Dr. Anne Zajac (Parasitologist) from Virginia Tech, Dr. Amy Howell (Biochemist) from Rutgers University, and Dr. Jess Reed (Animal Scientist) from the University of Wisconsin.

Proposal input is being solicited from producers around the region. Any producers who are interested in learning more about this project or would like to participate in this project should contact Katherine Petersson at the University of Rhode Island by E-mail: kpetersson@uri.edu or by Tel: 401-874-2951.

University of RI - Home*A*Syst Program
SMALL ACREAGE LIVESTOCK
PROGRAM

Fact Sheet & Self Assessment Series

Use the fact sheet and self-assessment series to learn more about proper livestock management. Identify potential risks and plan solutions on your own farm. There are many resources on the website about manure and pasture management. In addition to the fact sheet and self-assessment series – there are web pages that organize additional resources by topic and state, region, as well as demonstration sites. Check them out:

http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/livestock_publications.htm

http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/livestock_links.htm

For more information contact:

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OPP CONCERNED
SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY

has a new website as of
 early September: www.OPPsociety.org

AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY NEWS:

Wool Military Contracts Awarded

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) recently awarded new purchase orders against existing contracts for military clothing containing wool fabric. Two purchase orders were issued to Burlington Industries. The first purchase order calls for the production of 105,000 linear yards of Marine Corps khaki, polyester/wool, tropical fabric valued at \$1.2 million. The fabric is to be delivered in three shipments of 35,000 yards in April, May and June of 2010 and will require approximately 28,000 pounds of clean grade 64s U.S. wool. The second Burlington purchase order calls for 250,500 yards of U.S. Air Force blue, polyester/wool, serge fabric valued at \$3.2 million. This fabric will be delivered in five shipments beginning in May 2010 and ending in September 2010. The Air Force fabric will require approximately 70,000 pounds of clean grade 64s U.S. wool. Sterlingwear of Boston was also issued two purchase orders from DSCP for Navy men's and women's overcoats (peacoats) against an existing contract. The purchase orders call for the manufacture of 7,000 men's and 2,800 women's coats. The peacoat is made from 100 percent, 62s grade American wool. These orders will require approximately 40,000 pounds of clean wool.

"The U.S. armed forces are great customers of the American wool industry as they utilize up to 20 percent of our wool clip each year," stated Rita Kourlis Samuelson, director of wool marketing for the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI). "Over the last six years, ASI has been diligent in working with the military to develop the products needed to clothe and to protect our troops."

ASI Prepares for Upcoming Meetings

The Executive Board of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) has set its fall meeting for Nov. 9-10, 2009, in Denver, Colorado. As part of the meeting, the board will tour the Superior Farms Denver facility where the first set of data for the lamb carcass instrument evaluation study was collected at the end of September. An explanation of the study and of the equipment will be shared by staff from Colorado State University who are

assisting with the study along with the ASI lamb council and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service. Top agenda items for this meeting include the efforts of the American Wool Council to secure the availability of the superwash process in America, management information for livestock protection dogs, updates from the LRP-Lamb program and ASI council and committee reports.

The committee to re-build the sheep inventory in the United States is also planning its first meeting in Denver, Colo., on Nov. 10-11, 2009, where it will begin looking at ways to increase lamb and wool production. The initial task of this diverse committee will be to identify producer challenges as well as those experienced by businesses downstream from the farm and ranch gate that may be limiting growth.

Farmers Urged to Vote in FSA County Committee Elections

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Jonathan Coppess said today that the 2009 FSA county committee elections will begin Nov. 6, with ballots being mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 7, 2009. County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility. To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can obtain ballots at their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 7, 2009, is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must also be postmarked no later than Dec. 7. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2010. More information on

county committees, such as the new 2009 fact sheets and brochures, can be found on the FSA Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Revised Scrapie Vet Guide Available

The "A Guide to the National Scrapie Eradication Program for Veterinarians" has been revised, updated and made available in compact disc format as part of the Eradicate Scrapie! information initiative, conducted by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services. "The revised version contains the latest information on various new aspects of the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) so that veterinarians can provide up-to-date, accurate information to their clients," according to Diane Sutton, DVM and NSEP national coordinator. It also contains considerably more information than the original print version, such as procedures for collecting and submitting samples for testing, including collection of the brainstem utilizing the scoop technique, rectal and eyelid biopsies and genotyping. The veterinarian guide is also available at www.eradicatescrapie.org in PDF format for downloading.

CORNELL SHEARING SCHOOL

March 6 & 7, 2010

The shearing school will be held at the [Cornell Teaching & Research Center Sheep Farm](http://www.cornell.edu). The farm is located at 440 Slaterville Road, Dryden, New York (about 5 miles south of Dryden). Instruction will include the shearing pattern, blade sharpening techniques, physical fitness, hand piece maintenance and more. The instructor is Doug Rathke from Minnesota. Rathke is one of the top shearers in the United States and has had extensive training from the New Zealand Wools. Rathke is skilled at both machine and blade shearing. Class size is limited to 20 students. The registration cost is \$150 per person. Deadline for registration is February 12, 2010. If you are unable to attend the shearing school, but are still interested in learning more about sheep shearing an instructional video tape or DVD is available. This 90-minute "how-to" video is filled with

useful tips and information on shearing. The cost of the video or DVD is \$44.95 and may be obtained at the address below. To register for either shearing school or to purchase the video or DVD send your name, mailing address, phone number and a check or money order in US funds made payable to Doug Rathke and mail to Doug Rathke, 61231 MN Hwy 7, Hutchinson, MN 55350. Call 320-587-6094 if you have any questions.



NEWS FROM THE STATES....

MAINE

News from Maine Sheep Breeders Association

2009 was filled with well-attended events beginning in January with the Ag trade show in Augusta, followed by the Northeast Livestock Expo and Fiber Frolic in May, and the Sheep Field Day in August. Members attended fiber events, sheep sales and fairs across the state, throughout New England, New York and nationally during the spring, summer and fall. The 2009 Wool Pool was a huge success and plans are under way for the 2010 pool. Lamb was served at events across the state. Demand for lamb continues to grow and several producers are working at increasing volume to supply customers. If you are interested in membership or events held by Maine Sheep Breeders please visit the website at www.mainesheepbreeders.org.

More news from the State of Maine:

October 4-11, 2009 was the Maine State Sheep Show at Fryeburg Fair with Supreme Honors going to Joe and Judy Miller on their Merino Yearling Ram and John Cross on his Shropshire Yearling Ewe.

Nine Maine Youth went to The Big E to attend the 4-H sheep show in September and brought home Champions in Showmanship, Blocking Contests and in many breed classes.

October 24th at the Kennebec Valley Community College, the MSBA held a shepherd school on sheep & goat nutrition seminar during the daytime followed in the evening with the

MSBA Annual Meeting and dinner where Joan Rolfe was honor with the Lifetime Shepherd Award, followed by a talk on Scrapie by the Maine State Vet.

RHODE ISLAND

2009 Rhody Warm Blankets

This year 35 Rhode Island Sheep Co-op members pooled 2435 pounds of raw wool on Saturday, June 6 for the 2009–2010 Blanket. The wool was again truck to UConn for shipment with Connecticut and Massachusetts wool to South Carolina for scouring. From there it came back to New England to S & D Spinnery in Millbury, Massachusetts, to be carded, blended and spun into yarn. At the time of this writing, the blanket material has been woven into the blankets at the mill in South Grafton, Massachusetts and on its way to Rhode Island to the Riverpoint Lace Mill to be finished, cut and bound into blankets as we know them. This year the blankets will be available well before Thanksgiving! We had a “computer crash” and lost the non-member order list, so we are asking anyone who ordered a Rhody Warm blanket to reconfirm their order with Barbara Thompson as soon as possible (call or email) 401-949-0264 or mthompson5@cox.net. If you wish to order a blanket or find out more about the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative or the Rhody Warm Blanket Project go to our website: www.risheep.org ...and remember... *Warm Never Felt So Good!* ***And more news from Rhode Island...***

The Rhode Island Sheep Co-operative’s Fall Meeting and Pot Luck Supper was held on October 24th at the South Foster Fire Station, and was attended by 34 members and friends. A delicious supper was enjoyed by all followed by a silent auction that raised \$124.00. The program for the evening was “ASK THE EXPERTS” in a question and answer period. As members arrived, each was asked to write a question pertaining to their sheep program to discuss with the panel. The answering shepherds were Heather Place (wool & fiber), Donnie Hopkins (housing and equipment), Nancy Minter (animal health), Debbie Hopkins (lambing), and Kevin Woolam (Nutrition). Robin Meek, President of the Cooperative, Chaired the discussion. There was much to be

learned from questions and answers. Many thanks to all who made the evening a success.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Growers held their Annual Pot Luck Supper, at the Epsom Fire House recently on Saturday, October 31, 2009.

I am happy to report that New Hampshire well represented both Meat Week and Wool Week at the 2009 Eastern States Exposition. I enjoyed visiting with the “sheep people” and weighing in the winners!

Did you know NHSWG supports *Ag in the Classroom?* It’s a kit available at \$125 for each county in New Hampshire. It is geared to lower grades in school, and contains six (6) different experiences for sheep and products from sheep.

The Bruce Clement Scholarship offers three awards of \$1,000 to a college-age student. Russell Mason of Franklin, NH was this year’s recipient. Good work, Russ!

The Sheep Camp at New Boston was a great success this summer with 53 participants between ages 8 - 12 years old.

The Market Lamb Sale and Show had 14 members participating. Daniel Chute of Lempster won the Champion and Austin Grace of Westmoreland won 2nd in show. Jarrett Patch of Fitzwilliam won 3rd in show and 1st for Most Profitable Lamb, 1st for NH Grown Lamb, 1st for Home Grown Lamb and 3rd for Rate of Gain. Lillian Zimmermann from Hancock received 3rd for Record Book and 2nd for NH Grown Lamb. Samantha Patch from Fitzwilliam won 2nd for Record Book, 2nd for Most Profitable and 4th for NH Grown Lamb. Kaitlin Lewis from Ware received 4th for Record Book. Bailey Watson from Belmont won 3rd for Home Grown Lamb. Taylor Morrill from Belmont won 1st for Rate of Gain. Rebekah Hardwick from Frankestown won 4th for Rate of Gain. Other participants were Veronica & Jesse Bosworth of Deerfield, Molly Butler of Bradford, Marilyn Racine of Windsor; Erva Barnes of Piermont; Travis Akerstorm of Canterbury; Olivia Briggs of Sullivan; and Madeline Zimmermann of Hancock. Congratulations to you all!!!

Our next big event will be the Farm and

Forest Expo at the Center of New Hampshire the 1st week in February.

Then, of course, there will be the Annual Sheep and Wool Festival on May 8 and 9, 2010.

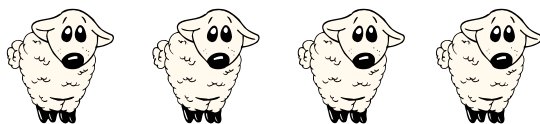
As you can see, the sheep industry is alive and well here in New Hampshire. If anyone in New Hampshire has more events or activities to report, please email me: bjhlucylamb@aol.com.

Take Care, *Lucy Myers* - N.H. Director

MASSACHUSETTS

Members of the Worcester County and Eastern Massachusetts Sheep Producers recently toured Richmond Textiles in Grafton Massachusetts, where the 2009 edition of the *Baaay State Blanket* is being woven. Last year the group visisted the S&D Spinning Mill in Millbury, to see the spinning process. The tour was arranged by Barbara Haberlin, Project Chair, and was conducted by Strickland Wheelock of Wheelock Textiles. Mr. Wheelock oversees the Massachusetts project, as well as those of six other state associations. Mr. Wheelock and his associated mills are happy to do the relatively low volume work for state blankets, but they are mailing involved in large scale commercial production. At the time of our visit the majority of the looms were weaving a date blue cloth that will be used for U.S. Navy coats. We were shown how the cloth looks as it comes off the looms, as well as a sample of what the cloth will look like after it goes through a fulling process at another mill. The mill manager showed us how he personally inspects every inch of the cloth. He also showed us the time it takes to correct imperfections caused by weak or contaminated wool. Each bit of poly fiber or hair is painstakingly removed by hand, and damage repaired before the fulling process. More information can be found on the association's website: www.worcestersheep.com .

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FROM THE NORTHEAST SHEEP ASSOCIATIONS....

NEW ENGLAND HAMPSHIRE ASSOC.

Comments from the incoming President: Malcom "Buzz" Johnson, of Warnerville, New York, email: foldingham@yahoo.com

Very few farms in the Northeast operate similarly to those out west. However we have value in developing the breed for size and type. My goals will be to keep our members active and informed by providing meetings that instruct, to keep the meetings infrequent but social, and to ensure organization for any special projects that are upcoming.

Being out here in the wilds of New York, I have been less active than most members. Therefore I will need a tremendous amount of communication and support to be successful. Please don't hesitate to notify me if there are items of interest that need my attention. Also, I feel it is also important to communicate the "news" of our flocks and our lives to build this community beyond one that gathers a few times a year.

- We will be notified of the designation of the Big E show after Louisville.
- The spring meeting will be held April 1, 12:00 at the Mallory Complex on the Big E grounds. It will be a covered dish lunch. Coffee, lemonade and dessert and your service will be provided.
- Remember to encourage national members to join our organization also!

The new Officers of the New England Hampshire Association are: President: Buzz Johnson (NY), Vice President: Phillip Webster (ME), Secretary: Heather Johnson (NY), and Treasurer: Marcus Thompson (RI).

More news from the N.E. Hampshire world:

The fall meeting of the New England Hampshire Sheep Breeders Association was held in September by members attending the Big E Hampshire show at Eastern States. Election of officers was held during the meeting. David Lytle brought the members up date on current national news. The members voted to begin a newsletter for members along with reaching out to breeders who are currently

in the national association but not regional members at the present time.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member or would like to follow the activities of NEHSBA please log on to the website at www.nehsba.org, email requests to nehsba@me.com.

NORTHEAST SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION
Greetings Northeast Suffolk Sheep Enthusiasts:

The Northeast Suffolk Sheep Association held its organizational meeting in September in conjunction with the Eastern States Exposition. New officers were elected as follows:

President: Doug Gillespie;
Vice President: Darlene Leary;
Secretary: Taylor Peck;
Treasurer: Janet Hukowitz.

Our sincere thanks to Duckie Chute and Shawn Thayer who retired as officers following terrific service to this Association.

Lisa Webster has agreed to continue as NSSA webmaster. I believe that our website is a very valuable communications tool that will help keep our members involved and grow the association. Lisa has done a wonderful job getting this project started, and I encourage the members to make use of the website to keep news about your activities available for those interested in Suffolks in the Northeast.

You have a leadership team that is working together to benefit all members and grow our organization. I welcome your suggestions and thoughts on programs and activities. You can reach me at Suffolk.Sheep@ymail.com. And for the latest Suffolk news visit www.nesuffolk.org.

Phil and Lisa Webster have graciously offered to host our next meeting at North Star Farms in Windham, Maine. The date selected is April 10, 2010, so mark your calendars.

We had a terrific regional show at Woodstock Fair over Labor Day (see below results). The Big E Suffolk show was truly impressive: North Star Farms had Champion Ram, and MacCauley Suffolks won Champion Ewe and Supreme Champion Ewe of the show. Nine full flocks were shown. Congratulations as we head off to Louisville and the National Suffolk Show.

Best Wishes to all, and thank you for your

support of the Northeast Suffolk Sheep Association. -Doug Gillespie, President-
And more North East Suffolk news...

Results of the Northeast Regional Suffolk Show held on September 6, 2009 at Woodstock Fair, Connecticut with Ed Keeney judging. Seven full flocks competed. The winners were:

Grand Champion Ram and Junior Champion:

HUKOWICZ FARM, Intermediate Ram Lamb

Res. Grand and Senior Champion:

KRISTINA WELD, Yearling Ram

Reserve Senior Champion:

HUKOWICZ FARM, Senior Ram Lamb

Reserve Junior Champion:

CHUTE FAMILY, Junior Ram Lamb

Best Headed Ram:

HUKOWICZ FARM, Champion Ram

Grand Champion and Senior Champion:

SETH GILLESPIE, Class 2 Yearling Ewe

Reserve Grand and Reserve Senior Champion:

SETH GILLESPIE, Class 1 Yearling Ewe

Junior Champion:

SETH GILLESPIE, Intermediate Ewe Lamb

Reserve Junior Champion:

CHUTE FAMILY, Junior Ewe Lamb

NORTHEAST TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION

Congratulates Anna Charest

Tunis Ewe Goes Supreme at KILE

Congratulations go out to Anna Charest, Brimfield, MA, who won Supreme Champion Ewe honors at the Keystone International Livestock Exhibition, Harrisburg, PA. The ewe came out of a strong yearling ewe class to win not only breed honors but supreme honors as well. Tunis breeders will remember Anna as a past NETSA Tunis Ambassador and the creator of the NETSA logo. Congratulations on this most prestigious win; you have earned it!

The Northeast Tunis Sheep Association had a successful regional show at Woodstock, CT. It was the show at which the Jackpot Yearling Ewe class was held. Ewe lambs nominated in 2008 and re-nominated several times vied for their share of the nomination fees. Anna Charest was the winner of this event. Congratulations again, Anna.

The National Tunis Show is coming to Eastern States Exposition in 2011 and the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association will provide the coordination for that event. Plan now to

support this show with entries and to say yes when you are asked to assist over the next year plus.

Watch for the announcement of the spring meeting of the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association.

NORTH EASTERN DORSET ASSOCIATION

As of this writing the minutes of the Annual Meeting have not been completed, but members can expect them to be available by the end of November (after Louisville)! The group plans to offer another basket as a fundraiser at NEYSS next July which will have a sports theme. Plans are being made to hold a spring get together of Dorset breeders at someone's farm – more information will be forth coming from the association secretary. The following are list of officers and email address of the Association:

Pres: Karin Peterson dorset00@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: Emmie Minitier

emmie.minitier@gmail.com

Sec: Kaitlin Lewis kdlfarm2007@gsinet.net

Treas: Scott Poitras ppoitras@charter.net

Directors:

NH - Mike Wright

mistymeadowoxfords@hotmail.com

NY: Heather Stoltman

stoltman@frontiernet.net

CT: Matt Syme slfpolo@cox.net

VT: Vacant

MA: Tirzah Rasys tirzahrasy@live.com

RI: Robin Meek

ballydufffarm@yahoo.com

ME: Thomas Walsh tjw@gwi.net

At-Large:

Leah Gankofskie gankofskie@verizon.net

David Lewis kdlfarm2007@gsinet.net

For more information about the North East Dorset Association contact Kaitlin Lewis, Secretary, by phone at 603-529-6138 or by email at kdlfarm2007@gsinet.net .

NORTHEAST BORDER LEICESTER BREEDERS FORM GROUP

Border Leicester breeders have decided to formally come together as the Northeast Border Leicester Breeders. This group will work to support the American Border Leicester

Association with breed promotion. In addition, this more formal organization will provide a group to coordinate regional Border Leicester events and activities, such as regional shows, support the Northeast Youth Sheep Show Border Leicester Show, and other events. Anyone with an interest in promoting Border Leicesters in the Northeast Region is welcome. Contact Polly Hopkins (khop4811@aol.com) or Sally Barney at (Woolmark@live.com) for additional details. Look for information on a kick-off event soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for 2010 FESTIVALS:

101st Connecticut Sheep, Wool & Fiber Festival

April 24, 2010

The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

May 1 & 2, 2010

34th Annual New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival

May 8 & 9, 2010

4th Annual Rhode Island Sheep & Wool Festival

May 15, 2010

36th Annual Mass. Sheep & Woolcraft Fair

May 29 & 30, 2010

The 10th Maine Fiber Frolic

June 5 & 6, 2010

22nd Annual Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival

October 2 & 3, 2010

New York Sheep & Wool Festival

October 16-17, 2010

The First Annual NorthEast Fiber Festival

November 6 & 7, 2010

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://animalrangeextension.montana.edu/sheep/sheep.htm>

(click on "Fact Sheets" on right hand side of screen)

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds>

(click "sheep" – all breeds listed on left side of page)

<http://www.pipevet.com/pvc.htm>

(for supplies and also can be used to reach a Veterinarian for advice)

<http://www.sheep.cornell.edu/sheep/index.html>

(Cornell University's sheep website)

<http://www.sheepusa.org/>

(American Sheep Industry website)

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