



The Producer

Maine Sheep Breeders Quarterly Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter Fall 2010



MSBA Annual Supper and Meeting

Saturday, October 23, 2010. Lamb Dinner @ 6pm

The Maine Sheep Breeders Association invites you to join us for our Annual meeting following the Sheep and Goat Reproduction Seminar at Carter Hall @ KVCC in Fairfield.

2010 Sheep & Goat Reproduction Seminar

Saturday October 24th, 2010 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. @ Carter Hall Auditorium @ KVCC Fairfield, Maine

Registration deadline is October 15th, 2010

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension is presenting a two-session Sheep & Goat Reproduction Seminar Saturday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carter Hall auditorium at Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield, and Sunday, October 24 at York Hill Farm in New Sharon.

The seminar Saturday will provide producers practical knowledge and skills about small ruminant reproduction and basic genetics. The cost is \$30 for Saturday and \$70 for Sunday. The topic Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is about ways to improve livestock and the financial bottom line. Since attendance is limited for the Sunday session, a waiting list has been created.

For registration information, please contact Richard Brzozowski at 1-800-287-1471 or visit extension.umaine.edu/livestock/sheep-goat-reproduction-seminar

Our annual supper and meeting will be held at 6pm on Saturday. Lamb dinner with potluck along with a general meeting, election of new board members. Guest speakers, presentation of the MSBA Shepherd of the year award and a fund raiser for Maine Youth sheep producers. We welcome all of our membership as well as new members and the goat producers to join us at KVCC in Fairfield for the event on Saturday, October 24th at 6pm

Maine Sheep Breeders Association
Membership Form 2010-2011

Name _____

Breed of sheep you currently raise (or
may in the future):

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Sheep related products you offer

Membership is \$20.00 per year/per farm.
MSBA membership year is July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Make check payable to: **MSBA Treasurer**

Mail to:

MSBA Treasurer, Richard Brzozowski

PO Box 9300

Portland ME 04104-9300

Youth members: Yes or No

MSBA fall calendar of events

**October 23- Annual Meeting/Dinner and the
Shepherd School at KVCC Fairfield**

November 6&7 Fiber Festival of New England

**November 23, 2010 - Fall Directors Meeting in
Augusta at 6:30 (Location to be determined at the
annual meeting)**

January 11-13 Maine Agriculture Trade Show
Show hours Tuesday, January 11 9am-5pm;
Wednesday the 12, 9am-8pm; Thursday, 13,
9am-3pm

January 19-22 ASI annual convention Reno, NV

The Producer is printed 4 times per year.

January-April-July & October.

January Deadline December 25

April Deadline March 25

July Deadline June 25

October Deadline September 25



The printing of the Fall 2010 edition was funded by Northstar Farms of Windham Maine. For more information on Phil and Lisa's farm please visit their website. www.nsfarms.com

Pipevet news....

NEW APPROACH FOR TREATING EWES WITH PREGNANCY TOXEMIA

Dr. G.F. Kennedy of the Pipestone Vet Clinic offers his thoughts on a new method of treating sheep experiencing toxemia in the final weeks of pregnancy. "There is a report from Israel that the use of Flunixin Meglumine at 2.5 mg per 1 kg or 1 cc per forty pounds of body weight administered intramuscular, in conjunction with conventional treatment can provide much better results treating pregnancy toxemia than conventional methods alone.

"The anti-inflammatory Flunixin is better known by the trade name Banamine. Animals were treated for three days. I suspect subcutaneous injection would work as well."

Pipevet for all your sheep Questions
askavetsheep@pipevet.com

Also full line of supplies and products available on line
www.pipevet.com



New England Sheep & Wool Growers Association 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 to promote the use of wool and other natural fibers and related products to the general public. Also included in this weekend's events, will be children activities, displays of live animals and their contribution to the fiber industry, plus workshops and demonstrations related to the natural fibers.



Chef Sam Hayward
 Fore Street Restaurant, Portland Maine

"Small farms across America are in trouble and that is not something that is new—it has been going on for decades...I try to make sure that everybody is buying from local farmers, even if it is only \$10 a week, it nurtures your own community and that is very important."



Great lamb cooking ideas can be found Simple Gourmet Lamb with Side Dishes and Wine Pairings

Author Kate Krukowski Gooding

"Kate Gooding is in a class all of her own. With an unbridled enthusiasm for food, culture and history, Kate makes spending time in the kitchen with her books a journey into another world. Using simple and tasty recipes, Kate makes the idea of expanding our culinary boundaries easily accessible for any cook. Bored of frozen supermarket chicken breasts? Looking for something out of the ordinary that is firmly rooted in honest and authentic cooking? Buy this book!"

Andrew Zimmern, "Bizarre Foods With Andrew Zimmern," The Travel Channel

Minutes of the July 20, 2010 (special meeting called by the president)
Not on the original schedule

Held at the Great Wall Buffet in August at 6:30pm July 20, 2010

Called to order by the President Phil Webster

attending:
Phil and Lisa
Diane
Elizabeth
Kelly
Brant
Al
Felix
Richard
Joe
Cindy
Mary

Treasurers report was given. Discussion followed as to the amounts in the accounts and where the savings account had been before the change in the board several years ago. Report was accepted as read

Secretary report was read, accepted with one minor correction to the date of August 14. Tour was listed in the last minutes as July (corrected to August). Report Accepted.

Discussion followed as to the three producers who had delivered wool to the mill after the wool pool and had not received payment. Dick will follow up on this for them.

ASI recap of Washington trip was given by Brant. An electronic copy has been sent to the secretary along with photos for the summer edition of the Producer. Brant also had time to meet with Steve Lee of the Sheep and Goat Center and would like to ask Mr. Lee to attend a members meeting in the near future to discuss funding opportunities for producers. Question was put forth by the president as to where Washington, DC stands with funding of the scrapie program. Brants take home message from Washington, DC:

"Talk becomes real when they hear it from producers"

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter-4 issues are to be done per year and we have failed to get an issue out to members since spring. Lisa W has agreed to take over the project for the summer and fall issues. Maybe someone will come forward at the annual meeting in October for this project. Summer issue will include a membership form for the 2010-11 year. Dick will provide new member information so that we can welcome them in the next issue after they become members. Lisa has been requested to draft a letter to Jami for the president thanking her for her work in the spring 2010 issue.

August Tour-Tour will begin at Rite-way at 10am and will last 45 minutes. From their self-transportation to the fiber Mill arriving at 11am. tour of the fiber mill will conclude in 45 minutes. Pot Luck, farm tour at Romney Ridge at noon. Lunch is planned for 12:30. Please bring pot luck dish and chairs. The retail shop will be open and a Board meeting will take place after lunch.

Email to all members-discussion followed how we can get more information out to our members without added costs. Constant Email (a date Base management program) was recommended. Cost per year is \$125.00, Lisa will follow up for the August meeting.

Tour by AgCom on July 27th.

Legislature will travel by bus

The purpose of the tour is to connect with producers

6 farms will be on the tour in the Augusta area

Lamb for the dinner @ Lakeside Orchards will be Kabobs. 15.5# of boneless lamb will be supplied by Northstar Farms. They plan to feed up to 75 people which will allow for 1/4# per person of lamb. \$116.25 will be reimbursed to NSFarms for the lamb. Reusable shopping bags will be ordered from ASI for the event and stuffed with lamb information. Kelly and Elizabeth will each supply a \$40 woolen item from their shops to be given away at the event.

Lisa will pick up the woolen items at Kelly after Thursday and will deliverer the lamb to August over the weekend. Brant will represent MSBA at the event.

Membership Renewal-July 1, 2010 is the beginning of our membership year and the packets have not gone out as we have not chosen the new logo. We have 124 current members of which 31 are very recent. Dick will send out the membership forms to everyone who has been a member in the past three years this month.

Logo-Choice of the logo will be the green state of Maine with MSBA and one sheep in white. Lisa will work on the details of it and get it out to the directors before the end of July for approval.

Statements we can use to go with the new logo include

Writing out Maine Sheep Breeders Association done the left hand side of the state outline. It was also suggested we use "a great natural resource" in our logo.

Display-The committee presented ideas for two displays one useable for inside setups and another banner type for use in outside displays. Costs will be closer to \$1200 for these displays. Presentation was given as to the message (wording and such) and discussion followed. Minor changes were suggested to the committee. Deadline for the display completion is Common Ground Fair. Phil and Lisa will set up the display at Cumberland, Mary will use it the first weekend in October for an event in central Maine and hopefully Fryeburg Fair will allow us to set it up in the sheep barn during fair week.

No other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership forms will have the Treasurer's address on them and an active membership will be forward to and maintained by the Sec. The Web master (Kelly) will also receive the updates to the membership list so that we can keep the website up to date.

Mailing and contact information for MSBA
It is agreed the mailing address should be the mailing address of the president for listing in publications and other mailing lists.

Therefore mailing labels will read:
MSBA
C/o Phillip Webster, president
Northstar Farms
PO Box 1867 / 24 Stevens Rd
Windham, ME 05062
207-892-2161
www.mainesheepbreeders.org

Any inquiries sent by way of email to Kelly will be forwarded to the Secretary for distribution to the correct person or persons. The Agenda will be changed to

include a web report each meeting following the secretary's report so that everyone will have a change to see the number of hits and other information coming through the site.

Phil thanked everyone for getting together for the meeting on short notice.

The next meeting will be held August 14, 2010, at Romney Ridge hosted by Kelly (don't forget to bring your lawn chair)

Minutes submitted by Lisa Webster, Secretary of MSBA on August 2, 2010 # I have not attached the copy of the ASI report or the display report but will have it attached to the file copy of the minutes. e: No communication from Jami on this matter and collapse of the

printing of the last producer put together at the last minute by Kelly happened while Dick was away from his office during May. Next issue needs to be out in early July and ALL board members have agreed to submit their information to Lisa before the 15th of July. Lisa will put together the Producer from the gathered info and send it along to be printed and mailed. Electronic issue will go to Kelly.

Sally Merrill of sunset Acres is no longer in the sheep business and has a lawn display for MSBA. Motion passed to send \$50 to Sally of this article and possibly use it within our new display.

Meeting adjourned



"Great summer weather welcomed the public to view sheep, fiber and general livestock from Northern Maine in Early July to the great Fryeburg Fair in October." Lisa W.



Comments from the Commissioner as featured in the AgTODAY Newsletter

State-inspected, local maine meat and poultry....primed for national distribution. Maine consumers enjoy some of the safest, freshest products in the world, with locally raised meat and poultry slaughtered in state-inspected facilities. The regulatory programs of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources play a critical role in assuring that our food supply is safe, wholesome, unadulterated and properly labeled.

Our state-inspected, locally produced meats are some of the best, highest quality products available. The farms and slaughter plants are small, family-owned businesses. They offer popular products such as sausages, beef jerky, chicken, beef and goat.

The Maine Red Meat and Poultry Inspection Program started a little more than six years ago. Our objective is to assist Maine's small- and medium-size meat and poultry processors, to build on the success of the current industry, and to promote additional business.

Maine farmers generated about \$126 million in cash receipts last year from livestock and poultry operations. Right now, seven facilities are under state inspection, five are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and 14 are small, custom-exempt plants. Last year, state-inspected plants processed more than 1,600 animals, amounting to nearly 600,000 pounds of product. This value-added sector of Maine agriculture constitutes only a portion of the industry. **continued on page 7**



MSBA board of directors meeting was held on September 8, 2010 at the Great Wall in Augusta

Attending: Diane Schivera, Phil and Lisa Webster, Brant Miller, Cindy Kilgore, Mary Burr

Not attending but available by phone if needed for voting Richard B

Meeting called to order by the President Phillip Webster

Sec report accepted

Tres report briefly recapped: \$6523.19 and the display boards have been ordered but not yet paid for. Display graphics are being made

Web (brief) report "all is good and an update will be given at the annual meeting"

ASI and AGCOM

AGCOM The five candidates running for governor shared their thoughts on the state of Maine agriculture. The forum sponsored by the Agricultural Council of Maine gave each candidate 45 minutes to address the crowd and answer questions. More information will be provided by Brant in the October producer

University of Maine Cooperative Extension's 2-session Sheep & Goat Reproduction Seminar will provide producers with practical knowledge and skills about small ruminant reproduction and basic genetics. In Session 1 on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield, Maine, producers will learn ways to gain noticeable improvements in their livestock and financial bottom line. This will be followed by the MSBA annual meeting. Lamb Roast supper will be catered by Northstar Farms with the help

of Linda Daigle (Lisa's mom) of Will-O-Wood Farm in Fairfield and "What's for supper" main street diner of Norridgewock. Presentation of the Shepherd of the Year award, brief meeting and then our guest speaker, the topic will be Sustainability Agriculture and Grazing In Session 2 on Sunday, October 24, 2010 in New Sharon, Maine, participants will learn and apply proper techniques to artificially inseminate goats. Registration deadline for the event is October 15, 2010

Producer: the next issue of the Producer will be printed and mailed October 7th to our members. Deadline for articles is **OCTOBER 1**. Please send me your articles asap as this is a very busy time for all of us.

Display committee: Display is under construction. Discussion followed as to making up business cards and possibly a small postcard for use at the fairs and other AG events for promotion of MSBA. Mary will need the display for Skowhegan farmers market on Oct 23rd from 9-1 and will bring it to the MSBA annual meeting for setup.

Other Old Business: Has anyone heard from Joe Miller and he is all set with the presentation, the BIO, the invite of the family, etc for Ann Gras? No one knows but Lisa will check with him at Fryeburg Fair.

Will Kelly take care of the Silent Auction for the event again this year? Or what

ever give away or other entertainment she may think up? Kelly....please let me know..thanks Lisa

New Business

Membership Drive-SWLOOM does a guest member drive offering a member to pay for a guest (guest will have one year guest membership) at a reduced rate.

Meadowsweet Farms is reducing they flock and have requested room to advertise them for sale in the next producer and on the website. Lisa has sent off a request for a writeup to be included in the fall issue. The apparent reduction is a result of health issues in the household. This will be a great loss to the sheep community as

Meadowsweet Farms is a large lamb vendor in the Bangor area and attends many sheep related events across Maine.

President asked about Ag related events and if we are representing our producers well. An example was the AGcom events. Brant feels we are doing a good job getting word out about sheep and we are being recognized as a progressive association. AGcom meets the last Tuesday of each month at the Farm Bureau in Augusta and everyone is encouraged to attend. Brant attends as our Rep and Lisa will try to schedule attending each month on behalf of MSBA also.

Bartlett Yarn has paid the remaining producers for wool delivered to them after the Wool Pool. The wool pool will be held again at NELE in 2011. Committee should be formed in November should that we reach a large number of possible bidders and put together a full wool bidder list over the winter as opposed late spring this coming year. Diane agreed to Chair the committee for us.

Producer discussion followed: Deadline will be October 1

- Mary- Fall lambing, recipes and farmers market report
- Brant-Tour highlights of AG tour
- Cindy-Com of Ag article on the opening of the new terminal to ship international from ME, State Vet on the export-import of sheep from Canada
- Dianne-ARS from USDA articles and writeup on the success of the Common Ground Fair
- Phil-message from the president

•Lisa-Windsor Fair market lamb pricing, identify maine restaurants serving lamb (hopefully local, maine lamb)

Additional discussion on the invitees to the annual Dinner, Lisa will make out a invite for Kelly to put on the website as well as print and mail them to the following

Dr. Anne, Dr Hoeing, Steven Lee from American Sheep and Goat Center, and Tom Colter from ASI, **Please email me anyone else you would like me to send a special invite out to.**

Discussion followed as to the status of the new processing plant currently planned for opening hopefully 2011. The project is supported by all types of livestock and will be a great benefit for producers. Phil and Lisa are developing a large lamb contract this fall and will be faced with trucking the animals to VT for processing due to customer requirements of safe handling of the product. Support of AG business in ME is best but safe handling of the product is critical to success in the food industry.

The final item of the evening meeting was the menu for the annual supper

We are planning roasted lamb, tossed salad, potatoes and dessert. Cost to MSBA is estimated at \$500 based on same number of guests as late year. There may be scrapie \$ available for the event and we voted to have Dr. Don Hoeing speak on tagging requirements.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15

Next meeting will be held during our annual meeting with election of the following officers

President - Phillip Webster (2007-2010)

Press-Dianne Schivera (2007-2010)

Director-Perry Ells (2007-2010)

submitted for your review and comments by Lisa Webster, Sec MSBA on Sept 23, 2010



continued from page 5 However, it is experiencing strong growth, and it will continue to provide opportunities to an increasing number of farmers across Maine.

Domestically, only meat slaughtered in plants with USDA inspection can be shipped across state lines. An outdated federal law prohibits the sale of state-inspected products (beef, poultry, pork, lamb and goat) across state lines — even though these products must meet or exceed federal inspection standards. Ironically, meat and poultry products from 38 foreign countries can be freely shipped and sold anywhere in the United States. Imports of meat and poultry have increased significantly in recent years, amounting to more than 4.3 billion pounds in 2005. Currently, imported meat products comprise 20 percent of the red meat consumed in our country — more than double that of state-inspected meat.

There are many reasons why the restriction on interstate meat sales doesn't make sense. No other food commodities inspected by state authorities are prohibited from being shipped across state lines. Other state-inspected food products including perishable items such as milk, cheese, fish, and shellfish, are marketed freely across the country. **continued on page 10**

Eliminating the Effects of Foot rot on Sheep Flocks in the Northeast

The Northeast is home to millions of lamb consumers. However, significant barriers exist to the profitability of sheep, including key animal health issues. Foot-rot has been identified as a main reason sheep farmers are forced out of business. Foot-rot is a highly contagious disease that requires relentless treatment using persistent hoof trimming, foot bathing, customized vaccines, and other management practices. These efforts require considerable time and money.

Sheep Foot Health Project will educate producers about the causes, treatment, management, and preventative techniques, including the use of genetic selection to generate footrot-free flocks. A unique integrated approach of foot management, selection for resistance, and documentation of genetic markers will allow breeders to eliminate footrot.

Producers who are selected to

participate in the Sheep Foot Health Project will learn the techniques for assessment, scoring, and record keeping of foot health. They will also learn how to create and implement a customized biosecurity plan, an important tool in preventing the disease.

An experienced research team will evaluate and score the feet of at least 200 sheep from participating farms and collect blood samples. DNA from these samples will be evaluated for predictive markers of footrot resistance. Resistance in these sheep will be tested by documenting absence of footrot lesions in the presence of footrot organisms. Selection for resistance will reduce producers' costs and make them less dependent on chemicals.

For more information, contact Richard Brzozowski, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, PO Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300, rbrz@umext.maine.edu or 207-780-4205.

**Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware,*

Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, West Virginia, and District of Columbia

HACCP FOR MEAT & POULTRY PROCESSORS

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 –
Thursday, October 21, 2010

Department of Agriculture
Deering Building
Conference Room 319
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta, Maine 04333

Contact:

Henrietta Beaufait
207 287-7512

Email:

henrietta.beaufait@maine.gov

Provided by:

Maine Department of
Agriculture





Fleece Tent has another banner year at Common Ground Fair

The sales for the Fleece Tent at the 2010 Common Ground Fair were most gratifying: Sales totaled \$11,000.00, with 305

“units” sold, representing over 1,000 pounds of Maine fiber. Despite the rainy weather, Friday was (as always) our busiest day, with sales topping \$6,200.



This is once again great news for both the Fleece Tent committee and the 54 growers (up from 47 in 2008 and 2009) who had fiber in the sale this year. It confirms for us that the Fleece Tent is truly a top destination for fiber lovers from Maine and beyond seeking out the best of Maine fiber. The increased participation of growers is a guarantee that fairgoers will have a wonderful and varied selection from which to choose.

We had another excellent fleece show on Saturday. Rae Reimer of Arundel served as our judge, fielding questions from observers and sharing her in-depth knowledge about fiber with all. Of the total of 34 show entries, the following received ribbons and premiums: Wool, First—Edith Allard, Pam Child, Wanatha Garner, and Joe Miller; Wool, Second—Elaine Cloutier, Heidi Daly, Susan Faunce, Joe Miller (2), and Alfred Wakeman; Wool, Third—Heidi Daly, Joe Miller, Wayne Myers, and Allison Thompson. In addition, Edith Allard received the judge’s award for Best-in-Show for her lovely Icelandic fleece. Awards for Specialty Fibers were as follows: Alpaca, First—Stacey Munroe; Alpaca, Second—Cindy Lavan (2); Alpaca, Third—Stacey Munroe; Llama, First—Karen Klein; Angora, First—Anna Barber; Jenny Smith (3). All show participants received their judging forms with scores and judge’s comments.

We are grateful to *Sheep!*, *The Shepherd*, *Black Sheep Newsletter*, *Marker* of NCWGA, and MSBA for their respective generous donations of back issues and other information for distribution at our Education Table.

Add to the sale and show a full schedule of well-attended talks and informal discussions and we can happily say that the group from the Wednesday

Spinners now managing the Fleece Tent celebrated our fifth year of doing so in grand style.

We encourage all Maine fiber growers to consider taking part in the fleece sale and show next year. To be added to our growers email group or to obtain information about the 2011 sale and show, please contact Penelope Olson (in Appleton), tel. 785-2784 or email mizoly@midcoast.com.

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The 70th Annual Maine Agricultural Trades Show-Located at the Augusta Civic Center on January 11th, 12th and 13th, 2011-Admission is FREE. Show hours Tuesday, January 11th 9am-5pm; Wednesday the 12th, 9am-8pm; Thursday, 13th, 9am-3pm

May 01, 2010 – December 31, 2010 at the Crosman Gallery



For a century hooked rugs have been avidly sought by collectors of folk art, artists and connoisseurs excited by their vibrant patterns, color and originality. Born during the first half of the nineteenth century, the craft of rug hooking spread rapidly throughout the nation from its probable origins in Maine and the Canadian Maritimes. The functional rug, made from scraps of fabric and yarn, became a unique expression of its maker as well as a decorative embellishment for the home.

Approximately forty splendid examples of hooked rugs that include Waldoboro, Arts and Crafts, cottage industry and other types emerge from the past for a spectacular display in Rug Hooking in Maine and Beyond, organized by guest curator Mildred Cole Péladeau more information at www.farnsworthmuseum.org

Spinning and Knitting Groups Around the State of Maine

Pine Kneedlers is a member-based, not-for-profit group established to promote and support the many facets of knitting, to offer education in the craft, and to enjoy the company of friends.

Monthly Meetings, Every Third Tuesday 6pm-8pm at the Bangor Parks & Recreation Facility (the old Armory) 647 Main Street Bangor (south of Paul Bunyan). Guests are welcome. Bring your knitting. For more information, please call 943.6909 or visit our website at www.pine-kneedlers.org

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Lawmakers in Washington have studied the issue of interstate meat sales for more than a decade. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to deal with this issue. Similar legislation, with bipartisan support, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. This legislation would amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to provide for the interstate shipment of meat that is inspected by state agencies. It would level the economic playing field for small producers across the country and allow them the same access to domestic markets currently enjoyed by companies from 38 foreign countries.

It is time for Congress to act. American consumers deserve greater access to safe, nutritious local products from state-inspected meat and poultry processors. Maine's livestock producers, processors and small businesses deserve to compete in the national marketplace. It's only common sense, and it's surely the right thing to do.

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture

Sheep Flock for sale from the Meadowsweet Farm



The ewes are flushed on late fall grass beginning in October, and the rams are put with them starting November 11. They get good second crop hay through the winter, are sheared in March, and start lambing about April 8. Most of our ewes have twins, with occasional singles and triples. We have selected for sheep that have good maternal instincts, good milk production (generally translating to good lamb growth), some parasite resistance, and often beautiful fleeces that are prized by



spinners. They are moderate in size, most of the ewes being about 175 lb., and most have easy going temperaments. Most have never, or rarely, had their feet trimmed. The flock is not organic, but is grass fed.

I have loved raising them. But last spring I decided that it was time for me to start transitioning away from sheep, or transitioning the sheep to new homes, since I have been dealing with cancer treatments for several years. I want to be sure that the sheep have good homes with people who care about their welfare and will enjoy having them.

For many years we have sold cuts of lamb and beef at two or three farmers markets. The last two years, as we reduced our ewe numbers slightly, we had more demand for freezer lamb than we could meet.

If anyone is interested in buying a group of Meadowsweet Farm's sheep, please contact me, and come and see them. We are just north of Belfast.

Our phone number is 207-338-1265, and email is meadowsweet@207me.com.

Paula Roberts

Purchaser of the MSBA 2010 Wool Pool



Since 1821, Bartlett Yarns has been spinning fine, pure wool yarns in our historic mill in the village of Harmony ME.

2011 Wool Pool

Saturday during the Northeast Livestock Expo the weekend of May 20-21-22, 2011 at the Windsor Fair Grounds.

**bidding information available in early March,
Contact Lisa Webster to be including on the bid list**

Articles, advertising and comments of the "Producer" may be sent to Lisa Webster, secretary of MSBA at msba@me.com

Message from the President



Greetings,

What a tremendous summer we were given and hopefully fall will be long so we all can get our projects completed before the cold and snow arrive to blanket the ground

Lamb markets are still above average through out the country so hopefully everyone is getting their sheep bred for spring. Hay is plentiful this year and with the wet weather in the mid-west the corn yields is down about 7%. Therefore I are recommending everyone feed more hay, oats and barley so not to be effected by the increased cost of corn.

As president of the MSBA I sincerely encourage any person with one or one thousand sheep be become an active member of MSBA. We have a great core of directors who are always looking for new ideas from the sheep farmers through out Maine.

I personally want to thank Kelly Corbett for all her dedication and hard work she has put into MSBA. From managing the Wool Pool to bringing us the "Producer" and the web site, she has done tremendous things for us. She is taking a break to attend to her children and their commitments, she will be missed. Thank you Kelly from all the board members.

In closing make sure you are marking your breeding ram, so that you will know if you are getting re-marks and therefore you will know if you have a fertility problem.

If I can be of any help do not hesitate to give me a call

MSBA contacts

President — Phillip Webster northstarfarms@me.com

Vice President — Mary Burr mburr@tdstelme.net

Treasurer — Richard Brzozowski rbrz@umext.maine.edu

Secretary — Lisa Webster msba@me.com

A complete list of the Directors and their contact information is available on the MSBA website

Advertising rates:

1/4 page \$100 per year (4 issues)

1/3 page \$150 per year (4 issues)

1/2 page \$200 per year (4 issues)

Full page \$350 per year (4 issues)

for more information and submission of ads contact Lisa Webster @ 207-892-2161 or email msba@me.com

The Producer is printed 4 times per year.

January-April-July & October.

January Deadline December 25

April Deadline March 25

July Deadline June 25

October deadline September 25

If you are interested in sponsoring the printing of the winter issue please contact us at msba@me.com.

The winter issue will be printed in Early Jan 2012 , and distributed at the Jan Ag Show in Augusta