The Guiding Sheep

The Quarterly Newsletter
Of the North Carolina Sheep Producers Association

Issue 1 2020

NC Sheep Producers 2020 Board Members

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Ronald Stephens
Jean Thomas (Chair)
Make It With Wool

From the President

Welcome to **The Guiding Sheep**, the quarterly newsletter by the North Carolina Sheep Producers Association. We will be using this newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, and our new website to keep the shepherds, and others interested in sheep, aware of the activities of the North Carolina Sheep Producers Association.
Each quarter I will be putting out a short Biography of the various Board members of the North Carolina Sheep Producers Association (NCSPA). As an organization, I think we have a very good representation of the wide spectrum of aspects involved with the sheep industry as a whole and this is well represented in our Board. We have Board members who are strictly concerned with meat production, highly experienced fleece producers, Board members who raise sheep for dual-purpose- both meat and their wool, members who raise lambs for youth shows, and more! We hope these introductions will help everyone get to know our NCSPA leadership and create points of engagement and invite open conversation. Enjoy!

–Susan

Meet the Board

The NCSPA current President is Susan Proctor from Vale, about 15 miles SW of Hickory NC. Susan has been raising livestock for about 50 years and focusing on sheep for the past 13 years. Raised in Macon County, NC; she attended both Wingate College and NC State University. At NC State, Susan met her husband Junior Proctor. The two married and moved to Junior's family dairy farm in Catawba County. Susan and Junior raised two children on the farm, and now their granddaughter. "I raise Montadale and Romeldale/CVM sheep for both their meat and their wool." Susan is an award winning fleece and stock producer. She is also currently a member of the Executive Board of the National Montadale Breeders Association..

Upcoming Events

Carolina FiberFest
Fiber Festival
March 13-14 2020
9:00am-6:00pm daily
www.CarolinaFiberFest.org

NCSPA Shearing Class
Hands On Shearing Class
Saturday, April 11, 2020
8:00am to 4:00pm
Skybrooke Farm
337 Pudding Ridge Rd,
Mocksville 27028

Piedmont Regional Goat and Sheep Conference
Saturday, April 25, 2020
9:00am - 3:45pm
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405
https://go.ncsu.edu/goatsheep2020

Blue Ridge Fiber Fest
Fiber Festival
June 5 – 6, 2020
Alleghany County
Fairgrounds, Sparta NC
blueridgefiberfest@gmail.com
www.blueridgefiberfest.com

2021 Annual NCSPA Meeting
January 16, 2021
Guilford County
Extension Office,
Greensboro NC
Registration
information coming
soon.

John Brasfield currently serves as Vice-President. John graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Animal Science and a MS from NSCU in Animal Science/Nutrition. He has three daughters who showed sheep as 4-H projects. He also has three grandsons. He has been married to his wife, Lori, for 40 years. He is retired from Surry County Cooperative Extension as both a livestock agent and County Extension director. John taught Animal Science, Equine Science and Horticulture as an Agriculture Teacher. He has been raising sheep since 1987. He currently runs 100 head on 10 ½ acres with intensive grazing practices that he developed and has followed since the 1990's.

Charles Young, Treasurer, is also a retired Cooperative Extension Livestock Agent. He has been a member of the NCSPA since the early 1980"s. Charles has raised Hampshires, Dorsets and Suffolks. He currently does not have any sheep but still does some shearing for smaller flocks. Charles helps with the check in and announcing of the sheep and goat shows at the North Carolina State Fair each year.

Bill Sparrow serves as the NCSPA representative to the American Sheep Association. He graduated from NCSU with degrees in both Animal Science and Agricultural Engineering. He raises Katadin sheep and hay on his farm in Durham County. Bill has been a member of the NCSPA since 1983. He is the Superintendent of the Junior Market Lamb show at the North Carolina State Fair.

Bill is a licensed Landscape and Irrigation Contractor. He was the recipient of the North Carolina Shepherd's Award in 2019, and the American Sheep Industry Producer Award for 2019.

What's Happening?

NCSPA Shearing Class: April 11.2020 This is a class for beginning shearers or anyone wanting to polish their skills. The Instructor is Stuart Matthews with John Brasfield assisting. The total cost is $130 for non-members of NCSPA participants or $100 for NCSPA members. Lunch will be provided. This first class is limited to the first five to sign up and pay a 50% deposit by March 17, 2020. Sign up forms are available at https://forms.gle/5gvpqmbir4hqwbuua. Mail the 50% deposit to Charles

For General Information or Membership:
NC Sheep Producers
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Youngsville NC 27596
NCSheepProducer@gmail.com
Website:www.ncsheep.com

Member Benefits:

- Mentoring shepherds;

- Discounts on educational workshops;

- Assistance locating area wool/fiber shearers;

- Representation on the American Sheep Industry Board;

- American Sheep Industry Monthly Magazine Subscription;

- Networking opportunities with industry peers;

- And more!

Join us! Visit www.ncsheep.com /membership

Young, SCSPA Treasurer 14145 NC Hwy 194 N Lansing NC 28643 **Lister Fusion Shears are being provided by Wahl Clipper at no cost**. More details are available on the NCSPA website.

We have made a change in our summer activities. Instead of holding a single, all-day meeting for members to get together during the summer, we are holding a series of regional meetings. This means the directors of the three regions of North Carolina will be hosting a meeting in their area in the hopes of giving more people the opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and learn about what is happening in the industry. To date, the Western Region will be holding a program on the new meat marketing system being put out by NCSU. The Piedmont Region will be meeting at The Shepherd's Gate fiber Mill in Youngstown NC for a program on fiber preparation. More about these meetings to come as details are finalized.

Make It With Wool

The North Carolina Make It With Wool contestants travelled to Scottsdale AZ with NCSPA Make It With Wool committee chair Mrs. Jean Thomas to compete in the National Make It With Wool contest. For those not familiar with this contest, each year a competition is held throughout the nation for the best garment created with fabric that is or incorporates wool. This year, our Junior competitor placed third in the National Finals. The NCSPA is hoping to get the national competition information for this year in time to distribute it to NC colleges and universities with textile programs to offer this opportunity to more participants. Mrs. Thomas has spent many years working with this program and is eager to see more participation in this facet of our industry.

American Sheep Industry Update

As members of the NCSPA, part of the membership fee is used to cover our individual memberships in the American Sheep Industry Association. If you are not receiving the Sheep Industry News magazine but are a paying member of the NCSPA, please get in touch with us so that we can correct this over sight!

Bill Sparrow, as the NCSPA representative to the annual ASI Conference each year, returned with both an update on what the ASI is currently working on for the betterment of the national sheep industry and as the recipient of the ASI Distinguished Producer Award. One of the challenges that the US Sheep and Wool industry has been facing is the competition in the International Wool market. This year at the National Convention, The move was made to commit to funding upgrading the wool testing lab at Texas A & M to meet the needs of the commercial wool industry.

ASI also secured $1.5 million from the Trump Administration for assistance on raw wool and pelt export capabilities due to issues in China. .