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NEWS

Spring 2009

Volume 3 Issue 1

A Message from the President of RIRLA

from Patrick McNiff, President, RIRLA

It is with great pleasure and humility that I take on the post of President of RIRLA. I have very large shoes to fill after two great presidents like Don Minto and Bill Coulter, but they both continue to be advisors and leaders on the board of directors of our growing organization. It has been so great to see the amazing support for RIRLA at our annual meeting. With over 100 people attending the event it spoke volumes about the importance of an organization like ours to continue to assist farmers in remaining economically viable. The response of the public to purchasing local raised and processed meat has been overwhelming. During the winter I participated in the Wintertime Farmers' Market in Pawtucket and was amazed at the demand for locally produced farm-raised meat. With tough economic times people are pulling their expenditures back but surprisingly they are supporting our farms in record number. The confluence of years of cooking shows and the drive to cook more at home is bring people to our farms in droves, looking for the amazing products we have to offer.

With this coming year we are embarking on several new projects that will focus on continually supporting you, our members. You all know that with membership you receive access to local slaughtering facilities right here in Rhode Island, through Johnston Beef & Veal and Westerly Packing. Throughout the winter we have worked with Westerly Packing to develop a new price structure that has lowered the price on all classes of animals processed. At the same time we have worked with the Trombino

family at Westerly Packing to create some new products options and improve the packing of your product. Recently, I visited Westerly Packing and they had installed a new rail system to improve carcass handling. This partnership is critical for creating a local food system in the state, and if we succeed financially, they succeed financially -- and they are really stepping up to make that a reality. They recently won approval to double the size of their facility. Thanks to the Trombino family for all of their support.

The other great partnership begun this winter was a discount grain program with TJ Hay & Grain in West Greenwich. Starting now, if you are a current member of RIRLA you can receive \$.75 off per bag on Poulin Grain for all classes of animals. This is per bag, you don't have to buy hundreds of bags to get this discount (talk with Todd at TJ for additional tonnage discounts for RIRLA members). This includes free delivery for larger orders. Also, for every bag sold to an RIRLA member our organization receives \$.25 to continue to do the work we do best, supporting farmers. So the more you buy the more you save and at the same time your purchase supports this organization. What a deal!! Thanks Todd and Jeanne at TJ Hay & Grain for your support.

As you read through this issue you will see we will be also offering some great educational opportunities this summer through our pasture walk series. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow farmers, learn about some innovative production techniques for raising livestock and get off the farm for a few hours. This year we are focusing on developing more of these

educational opportunities, so keep an eye out for more activities in the upcoming months.

Finally, this group depends on the support of its farmer members to staff committees and our board, so I call on all members to be involved in RIRLA. We have set up several committees to work on different issues this year. Below is a list of the committees and their plans for the upcoming year. Please come to our next board meeting or contact the committee chairs to volunteer to help. This is your organization and we need your help to continue move forward and succeed. A happy, healthy and profitable growing season to all.

PAT MCNIFF

Education/Outreach Committee

Chair: Don Minto

COMMITTEE CHARGE

2009 Work Plan

- Develop a Pasture Walk Education program
- Publicize the Pasture Walks to members and general public
- Host a cutting workshop with Westerly Packing
- Host a tour of Johnston Beef & Veal
- Evaluate the education program

Communication/Website Committee

Chair: Jane Christopher

COMMITTEE CHARGE

2009 Work Plan

- Design and publish 4 newsletters annually
- Design the RIRLA website
- Publish and maintain the new website
- Evaluate the website and newsletter activities

(Presidents' Message, cont. page 2)

A Report from the Director of RIRLA, Kim Ziegelmayer



Hello to all RI Raised Livestock Association members. Spring is here!

The annual meeting, held March 18 at the West Greenwich Elks, was a great success! Over 100 people attended the event. THANK YOU to all who attended and all who helped put the event together. WELCOME to all new and returning members. Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, keynote speaker, spoke about her Buy Local program and how the RI Raised Livestock Association is a great example of the benefits of buying local. RIRLA supports local and sustainable agriculture and the RI economy. Senator Sue Sosnowski talked about how excited she was to witness all the activity and attention going on in agriculture, nationally but particularly in RI. She quoted some statistics the 2007 Federal Agricultural Census including: RI (state) ranked third nationally in direct marketing sales on a per farm basis; "number of farms" increased 42%; "total land in farms" increased 11%. Presentations included: processing and choosing cuts of meat; RI Department of Health permits to sell; grants and loans through the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Bill. In addition, the night was a great opportunity to network with other farmers and others including Senator Mike Rice, Peter Martin and others.

It's time to **RENEW** your membership or **JOIN** RIRLA! Dues have NOT increased from last year! Membership is a great value at \$30 for RI residents and

\$100 for out of state members. Benefits include: access to USDA labeling and processing; grain discount at TJ Hay & Grain; quarterly newsletter; technical assistance; education and networking opportunities; potential group marketing "Rhody Raised" line of products and more. **Please renew your membership now and encourage other farmers you know to join or renew.** Please help us reach our goal for the 2009-2010 membership year of 100 members.

Pasture walks have been scheduled throughout the summer. Please see Don Minto's article on page 6 for the schedule and details. We hope that many of you choose to take advantage of this great member benefit. If you have any non-member friends you would like to bring along the cost is \$10/pasture walk or join the organization \$30 and attend the pasture walks for FREE!

The Processing Scheduling Service is now accepting appointments for slaughter. Remember, you must have joined or renew your membership to participate in the Service. **Check out our revised price list – almost all of the processing prices have either stayed the same or DECREASED!** The next available processing dates are June 23 and July 14. Contact Kim to schedule your animals at 575-3348 or director-rirla@cox.net.

Demand for RI raised meat products is strong, including local restaurants. Chefs prefer fresh meat to frozen. RI RLA is working with its business partners, RI Beef & Veal, Westerly Packing and Tom Nerney at the RI Department of Health to develop a system that will allow farmers to sell fresh meat to restaurants. Stay tuned for more information.

Technical assistance permit packages (work supported by the USDA RBEG) are NOW AVAILABLE when you join or renew! Another great member benefit. These packages provide farmers with step-by-step directions and a detailed description of the process; templates and the appropriate government forms. Obtaining your permits has become MUCH

easier! Contact Dr. Marshall at 222-2781 ext. 4503 or scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov

The website continues its forward progress. The RIRLA website www.rirla.org should be up and running by this summer. If you have any suggestions of features you would like to see on the website please contact Kim Ziegelmayer at director-rirla@cox.net or 401-575-3348 or one of the committee members. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Well, that is about it for now. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who make this the great organization that it is. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 401-575-3348 or director-rirla@cox.net to schedule your animals, discuss an idea or voice any concerns you may have.

President's Message (from page 1)

Grant/Fundraising Committee

Chair: Nonie O'Farrell
COMMITTEE CHARGE
2009 Work Plan

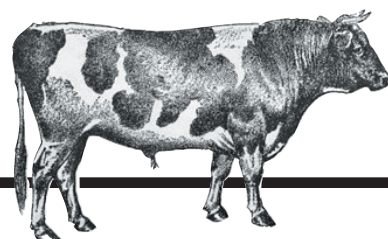
- Develop one fundraising event for RIRLA in 2009
- Research available grant funding
- Review grant proposals that are submitted for RIRLA in partnership with the Executive Committee

Product Marketing Committee

Chair: Louis Vinagro
COMMITTEE CHARGE
2009 Work Plan

- Conduct a feasibility of creating a Rhody Raised Meat product
- Create a business plan for Rhody Raised Meat
- Work with Westerly Packing and Noacks to develop new product lines for farmer

Survey members on what types of assistance they need to market products.



Opportunities for RIRLA Members

Funds Available:

Value-Added Producer

Deadline: July 6, 2009.

For business planning, processing plans or marketing strategies.

Deadline – June 22. For more info call USDA Rural Development, 401-826-0842.

Farmland Protection

Deadline: June 30, 2009.

For state, local governments or non-profits looking to acquire and preserve private land for agriculture. Call NRCS at 822-8820.

Beginning Farmer

Deadline: rolling.

First Pioneer Farm Credit offers money for new farmers and coops looking to expand through their Farmstart program. Targeted at farmers who may not be able to get loans from traditional banks. Up to \$50,000 in working capital available to be repaid in 5 years.

Whole Foods looking for farmers for Farmers Markets

Rhode Island Whole Foods Market is looking for farmers and food producers to participate in this year's farmers markets at the three store locations.

Whole Foods Market invites local farmers and food producers to sell directly to customers in front of each store. Insurance certificates are required. All Farmer's Market days are from 3pm to sundown.

Mondays: Whole Foods Market, University Heights, 601 N. Main Street, Providence. Contact: Bonnie Frechette, 401-621-5990.

Tuesdays: Whole Foods Market Garden City Center, 151 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston. Contact: Holly Dion, 401-942-7600.

Wednesdays: Whole Foods Market 261 Waterman Street, Providence. Contact Chelsey Barton-Karnes, 401-272-1690.

New Product Stickers and Signs. With the launch of the DEM's new *Buy Local* campaign, new signage is available to help market your RI farm. E-mail peter.susi@dem.ri.gov or call 222-2781, ext.4517.

Need an extra hand on the farm?

Go to http://www.rifarmways.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=enews.article&article_id=193& to find farm interns & volunteers to help in the coming season.

Farm to Chef/Grocer Tours.

Contact Jen Huntley-Corbin at jen@farmfreshri.org to set up a tour at your farm for potential buyers.



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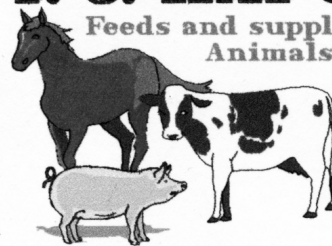
Jake (Cell) 1-860-625-0676

Fax 1-860-599-2968



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SVF Foundation Offers a Cryo-Future for Heritage Breeds

by Bryna René

Heritage breeds of cattle, sheep and goats occupy a relatively tiny niche in the world of farming today. Owners generally keep them out of love rather than for their profitability. But do heritage breeds have a larger role to play in the future of farming?

The SVF Foundation of Newport, Rhode Island believes that they do. “Modern farming methods have developed specific breeds to the point where they retain little genetic diversity,” says Sarah Bowley, Program and Livestock Manager for SVF Foundation. “Right now, there are approximately 37 distinct genetic strains in the entire population of Holstein Friesian cattle. In essence, there are no individuals; none of them have a unique genetic makeup.” The same goes for every other breed in which large numbers of females are repeatedly inseminated with the sperm of a few “top” males, including Angus cattle and Dorset sheep.

This homogeneous genetic status is not only disturbing on an evolutionary level; it presents an immediate problem to farmers. Because resistance to disease has essentially been bred out of their genetic makeup, highly developed breeds have little natural immunity. Stronger antibiotics and de-wormers are constantly required to keep them healthy, and overuse of these remedies leads in turn to the creation of resistant bacteria and super-worms. “It’s a very real issue,” says Ms. Bowley. “Where we stand now, it would only take one super-virus to wipe out the U.S. dairy industry.”

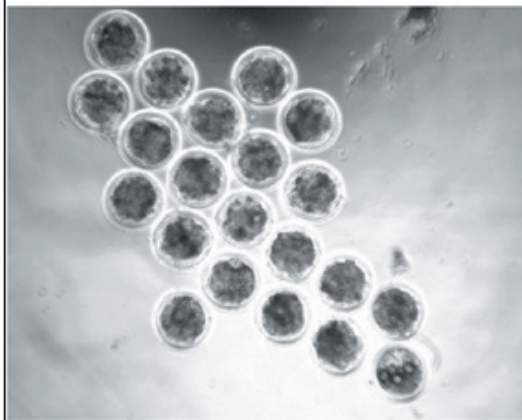
So what role do heritage breeds play in this? In the same way some people avoid the flu even though all their coworkers get sick, genetic diversity in animals allows that some will be naturally resistant to specific diseases or parasites. Heritage breeds retain many of the hardy characteristics which enabled their predecessors to

survive for generations. For example, the critically endangered Gulf Coast sheep, thoroughly adapted to the hot and humid environment of the Southeast, are naturally resistant to the worms and foot rot which plague the more commercialized Dorset and Sheffield breeds.

While breeds like the Gulf Coast may seem like a natural answer to the issues facing commercial livestock, these animals are disappearing fast – at the rate of one breed per month, to be exact. “Eventually, we’re going to need genetics from heritage breeds to enhance our failing commercial breeds. That’s why we need to act now to preserve the genes which make endangered breeds unique,” says Ms. Bowley. “That is the mission of SVF Foundation.”

The SVF Program

Through the efforts of the animal handlers and scientists at SVF Foundation, embryos, semen, blood, and other genetic materials are collected, processed, and cryogenically preserved against future need. Explains Ms. Bowley: “We’re creating a ‘seed bank’ of genetic material. This has been done with plants for years, but only in the past



few years are we beginning to see the possibilities for a similar record of animal genes.”

The program, created collaboratively with the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, focuses on food and fiber breeds (cattle, sheep and goats) classified as “critically endangered” by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

Examples include Santa Cruz and Gulf Coast sheep, Tennessee Myotonic goats (a.k.a. “fainting goats”), and Kerry Cattle. Ultimately, the Foundation hopes to obtain a minimum of 200 embryos and 3000 straws of semen per breed; these numbers will allow scientists to reawaken a breed with its full genetic diversity, if the need arises.

It’s important to note that no research of any kind is performed at SVF Foundation. Ms. Bowley explains: “All of our procedures involve standard agricultural practices. Our objective is not to see what can be done with the genetic materials we collect, but to preserve them against future need. Who can say how this information might be applied two or three hundred years in the future?”

How the Program Works

SVF Foundation works cooperatively with breeders and owners throughout the country to obtain animals through donations and free lease agreements. “Without the generosity of our network of breeders, we would never have been able to accomplish as much as we have,” says Ms. Bowley. SVF also relies on breeders to provide vital information about the pedigree and health history of each animal.

Before any animal is brought to Swiss Village—the lovely 35-acre property which houses SVF Foundation—it must undergo a series of screenings to ensure that it is healthy enough to participate in the program, and that its individual genetic structure fits SVF’s requirements. “We want to obtain our samples from as wide a genetic range as possible,” Ms. Bowley explains.

After a 30-day quarantine period, most of the 120 animals at Swiss Village are allowed to roam about their paddocks and pastures freely. “These breeds thrive on pasture,” Ms. Bowley says. “We feed them very little grain.” Males and females are kept strictly separated, for obvious reasons. Expert herdspeople are always on site, and monitor each individual

in conjunction with experienced Tufts veterinarians.

Animals generally reside at Swiss Village for 12 to 18 months, during which time their germplasm is collected and stored in SVF's cryogenic lab. Then, they're returned to their original owners, placed in conservation programs or zoos, or sold to breeders. The Foundation screens all potential buyers to ensure that all animals are placed with caring, responsible owners, and monitors each individual for a period of at least six months after their sale or placement. "Although we'd love to keep every animal here with us, we simply don't have the room," Ms. Bowley says. More importantly, the Foundation prefers to see the animals back into breeding populations.

The Collection Process

All embryo collections are performed on-site in SVF's ultra-modern surgical suite by Tufts veterinarians. Small ruminants (sheep and goats) are collected no more than twice to ensure they remain viable breeders in the future. Semen collections from small ruminants are obtained in the modernized barn. "The only procedure we don't routinely perform on site is bovine semen collection," says Ms. Bowley. "For that, we work cooperatively with bull studs or mobile collectors." Other collections include blood and skin cell samples, both of which provide invaluable genetic records.

Once obtained, each sample is processed in SVF's newly updated on-site lab. All are examined for viability before processing. A special air filtration system protects collected materials from contamination during examination and processing. Some blood samples are preserved whole, while others are spun down to serum; both can provide researchers with not only a complete record of every disease the sample animal has come into contact with over its lifetime, but with information about how the animal combated that disease. Biopsied cell samples (i.e. skin cells) are "grown out" into fibroblasts to become a renewable source of DNA. Semen is processed to a dilution factor of 100 million sperm cells per unit. Embryos are similarly processed and stored in

specialized straws.

Samples are cooled at a controlled rate prior to being transferred into large liquid or vapor liquid nitrogen storage tanks, where they are maintained at a temperature of -196°C (approximately -312°F). The cryogenic freezing process is delicate, but once frozen, items can be maintained indefinitely. "Every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure our system will maintain samples safely," says Ms. Bowley. "We have backup generators ready to take over if we lose electricity. Cameras and alarms are in operation at all times, and we perform emergency test runs on a regular basis. Even if the generators fail, the tanks themselves can maintain safe temperatures for up to a month before the liquid nitrogen deteriorates to a point where the samples may be compromised."

Once the optimal number of samples has been obtained from a breed, a "test run" is performed to ensure the viability of the collection. Frozen embryos are restored from their cryogenic state and transferred to a surrogate mother of a commercial breed. Chip, a healthy Tennessee Myotonic with a cheerful disposition, was SVF's first embryo transfer, and is one of Swiss Village's few permanent residents. "Chip is a great success story," says Ms. Bowley. "He proves that, through the science of cryo-preservation, we can restore extinct breeds in the future."

How You Can Help

While SVF Foundation has already collected thousands of samples from heritage breeds, their work is far from finished. "We're racing against the clock with many of these breeds," Ms. Bowley says. "They're disappearing too fast for us to keep up." On their website, SVF maintains a list of breeds currently on their collection roster, as

well as guidelines and information for interested donors. "We try to address critically endangered breeds first," says Ms. Bowley, "But we're willing to work with everyone looking to participate in our program."

Information is also available on the website for those wishing to purchase animals from SVF. "Lately, there's been a renewed interest in multi-purpose breeds," says Ms. Bowley. "Many of the heritage breeds we work with are dual-or tri-purpose, which makes them an ideal choice for small farms and sustainable agriculture." But while some breeds—such as the California Mutant Variegated



(CVM) sheep, noted for their unusual tri-colored wool—are beginning to make a comeback, others are still woefully undervalued.

"Some of these breeds have been around for hundreds of years. They're perfectly suited for their environmental niche, and they definitely have a role to play in the future of commercial farming. Here at SVF Foundation, we want to make people more aware of their merits, because in the end, even though we're preserving the DNA of these animals against the possibility of their extinction, we'd rather keep them alive."

For more information about SVF Foundation's program, please visit www.svffoundation.org.

Farmer to Farmer Educational Farm Tours

The Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association has a lot to be proud of as we look back over what has been accomplished in the last several years. As we look forward, one thing is for sure and that is that Farmers have been the backbone of this country and in the future this will be even more obvious. As Farmers, we have an incredible and current opportunity...and responsibility in our role as food producers to provide healthful, quality meat products to our friends, neighbors, and the general public. We have focused on addressing the processing infrastructure and streamlining the permitting process in recent years. We can all be proud of progress in those areas. Our work is not done. The Local Food movement is growing with a dedicated and a growing number of producers, who can work together, organize, increase production, and find ways to increase the economic viability of our farms.

The Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association realizes that farmers are innovators and each of us has something to offer to other farmers. Farmer to farmer programs where we can gather at each other's farms, walk and talk, and see what others are doing is a great opportunity to see something that might be applied at your own place. What works and even maybe what doesn't work, plus an opportunity to network and socialize at the same time.

This coming season the RIRLA will be sponsoring several **Pasture Walks** at member's farms. We hope that you will take the opportunity to participate and join others to make these programs successful. Mark your calendar and plan on attending these farm programs. Perhaps you may want to host one at your place as well. If so contact Don Minto at 401-423-0005.

The following Pasture Walks are scheduled so far:

June 24 Wed 6:30, Twilight meeting
Pat's Pastured at Beaverhead Farm
Host: Patrick McNiff

Noni O'Farrell's Beaverhead Farm
951 Fort Getty Road, Jamestown
Noni's Scottish Highland Cattle and a unique arrangement with Patrick for multispecies grazing of sheep, broilers, layers and pigs all on pasture.

July 22 Wed 6:30, Twilight meeting
Hidden Meadow Farm
Pasture walk at Hidden Meadows Farm
120 Breakheart Hill Rd.
W. Greenwich, RI 02817

Will and Heidi Wright are working to bring their family farm back to productivity by clearing overgrown pastures, installing high-tensile fencing, working with NRCS and promoting local agriculture. Hidden Meadows Farm offers beef, pork, maple syrup and goat's milk soap for sale from the farm. Will and Heidi also offer a variety of educational programs for children and adults.

September 12-Saturday
Watson Farm
455 North Main Road, Jamestown, R.I.

Don and Heather Minto will host this full day of pasture walk plus an opportunity for members to attend Coastal Growers Farmer's Market at Casey Farm. The Market is Sat. morning from 9-12. Two of our members are selling meat at this Market, "Pat's Pastured" and Watson Farm's "Conanicut Island Grass Fed". Visit the market on your own and then we will meet at Watson Farm at 1:00.

Gearld Fry from North American Devon Association and an internationally respected Cattle expert will be featured to assess livestock for grazing using linear measurement. We will talk about marketing our products, Rhody Warm and Conanicut Island Blankets as well as grass fed beef and lamb. Red Devon Cattle and managing our pastures will be the focus.

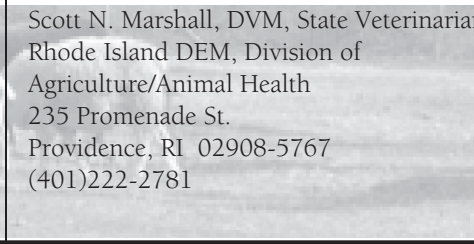
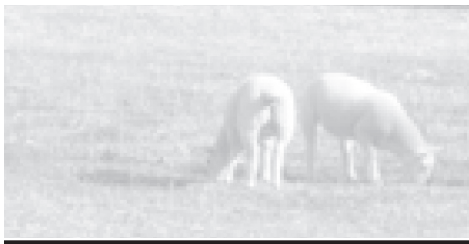
Swine Flu

State and federal officials have been responding to this recent influenza outbreak. Part of this response involves monitoring swine health here and in other countries. There are no reports of this virus infecting pigs in this country as of this date.

From an animal health perspective, this issue represents an opportunity for reinforcement of biosecurity practices. Pigs now must be viewed as potentially becoming infected with this virus, thus creating a potential reservoir of the virus. This may prolong the current outbreak and may facilitate spread. There are relatively few commercial swine in RI. There are some swine in public settings such as petting zoos, on farms where there is an ag-tourism component, and some pet pigs. Farmers should be made aware that the pigs are susceptible to this infection, so therefore contact between people and these animals should be minimized. Any person with an influenza like illness should not be allowed to have contact with the animals and in large commercial operations it may be prudent for any person having contact with the animals to wear a surgical type mask to prevent the pigs from coming into contact with respiratory secretions. Generally it is felt that a six foot distance is sufficient to prevent spread of infection so I would use that distance as a minimum between people and animals, however it is desirable to have a greater distance and preferably no contact at all. It is my understanding that the currently available vaccines are not effective against this particular strain and that the companies that manufacture swine influenza virus vaccine are working hard to produce one for use in pigs. There is no date yet announced when this product will be available.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions. Please report any sick pigs to me so that we can monitor for the presence of this virus in RI.

Scott N. Marshall, DVM, State Veterinarian
Rhode Island DEM, Division of
Agriculture/Animal Health
235 Promenade St.
Providence, RI 02908-5767
(401)222-2781



Upcoming Events

SVF Foundation Annual Visitors Day

June 6, 2009, 9 am – 3 pm

152 Harrison Avenue, Newport, RI

Free parking at Fort Adams

(across from SVF)

Trolleys will shuttle visitors to and from parking area

Rhody Warm Wool Collection Day

June 6, 2009, 9 am – 2 pm

Urban Edge Farm

35 Pippin Orchard Rd., Cranston

Rabies Clinic for Large Animals

June 6, 2009 8 AM - Noon

Foster Fair Grounds

Contact Scott N. Marshall, DVM

401-222-2781

Farm to Chef Open House

June 14, 2009 1 pm – 4 pm

Kevin & Ann Marie Bouthilllette's

Blackbird Farm

122 Limerock Road, Smithfield, RI

401-232-2495

blackbirdfarm122@yahoo.com

SRI 4H Fair

June 26, 27, 28

Washington County Fairgrounds

www.freewebs.com/srifair/

Farm to Chef Open House

June 29, 2009, time TBA

Louis & Maria Vinagro's Hill Farm

203 Hartford Pike, Foster RI

401-300-1051, fcrcycling@aol.com

followed by RIRLA board meeting @ 7 pm

Twilight Meeting/Pasture Walk

June 24, 2009, 6:30 pm

Noreen O'Farrell's Beaverhead Farm

951 Fort Getty Road, Jamestown

RIRLA members free, non-members \$10

Twilight Meeting/Pasture Walk

July 22, 2009, 6:30 pm

Will & Heidi Wright's

Hidden Meadow Farm

120 Breakheart Hill Road

West Greenwich

RIRLA members free, non-members \$10

Farmer's Market/Pasture Walk

September 12, 2009

Farmer's market @ Casey Farm 9-12

2325 Boston Neck Rd., Saundertown, RI

Pasture Walk at Watson Farm 1-5 pm.

455 North Road, Jamestown, RI

RIRLA members free, non-members \$10

(See details for the above 3 events in this issue.)

Foster Old Home Days

July 24-26, 2009

Foster Town House Grounds

NOFA Summer Conference

August 7-9 at UMass/Amherst

Check online for registration forms and info

www.nofasummerconference.org

For earlier grazing workshops info:

www.nofamass.org/programs/

organicdairy/grazing09.php

Washington County Fair

August 12-16, 2009

Rte. 112, Richmond, RI

RIRLA Calendar

Board Meetings (4th Monday of each month)

Monday, June 29, 2009

7:00 pm

Louie & Maria Vinagro's Hill Farm

203 Hartford Pike, Foster, RI

401-300-1051, fcrcycling@aol.com

Monday, July 27, 2009

7:00 pm

Gregg's Restaurant, North Kingstown

Monday, August 24, 2009

7:00 pm

Gregg's Restaurant, North Kingstown

These meetings are open to all members. Come and participate in shaping the future of our organization!

Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association

P.O. Box 640, N. Scituate, RI 02857

director-rirla@cox.net

Editors: Chris Ulrich

Jane Christopher

vgeese@verizon.net

RIRLA News is published quarterly by the Rhode Island Raised Livestock Association. RIRLA's mission is "to promote the preservation of our agricultural lands, our rural economy, and our agrarian way of life by creating an organization that will secure a viable infrastructure and provide for the efficient and sustainable production, processing, and marketing of quality, value added, locally produced meats in the state of Rhode Island".

Annual membership is \$30 per RI farm, \$100 per out-of-state farm and includes the newsletter. We also accept unsolicited donations. RIRLA News welcomes articles, photographs, letters and classified advertising for possible publication. Publication of articles or advertisements is not necessarily an endorsement by RIRLA. Articles from this newsletter may not be reprinted without permission. ©RIRLA 2009

RIRLA Executive Board

Patrick McNiff, President, 413-9770

Louis Vinagro, Vice President, 300-1051

Will Wright, Treasurer, 392-3469

Heather Minto, Secretary 423-0005

Don Minto, Past President Ex Officio 423-0005

RIRLA Sponsorship and Advertising Information

Sponsorship

Cost: \$250/issue

Ad size: Full page plus special acknowledgement

Distribution: Over 225 RI, MA and CT farms and farm related businesses

Published: Quarterly - January, April, July, October

Advertisements

(Dimensions: width x height)

Business card – 3-1/2" x 2"

Cost: One time rate: \$25

4X rate: \$85 (4 issues)

1/4 page ad – 3-1/2" x 4-3/4"

Cost: One time rate: \$50

4X rate: \$175 (4 issues)

Classifieds: 25¢/word

Additional charge for typesetting and scanning photos

Maximum ad size: 1/4 page