

OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY

— Fall 2011 Update —

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

As the OPP Society enters its 3rd decade, we want to thank those of you who have kept the dream alive through your unflagging support. From our humble beginnings: just a small group of frustrated shepherds—through the glory days when lively OPP Society annual meetings drew the likes of Drs. Marie Bulgin, Linda Detwiler, David Henderson and Cleon Kimberling, among others—the Society has now morphed into a respected online resource. During the last 12 months OPPsociety.org has attracted visitors from more than a dozen countries in addition to the U.S. and Canada.

And our recently expanded promotional campaign—with new ads now appearing each month in *THE SHEPHERD*, *SHEEP!*, and *SHEEP INDUSTRY NEWS*—is gaining traction. Visits to the website are up, and the viewers are hungry for educational information. Dr. Cindy Wolf's "TESTING & CONTROL OF OPP" has been downloaded more than 150 times already this month, as opposed to fewer than 25 times for the same period in 2010. That's good news, and with your help there are some ways that we might do even more:

- Annual dues generate just enough to cover the cost of the ads and website, but only if everyone's membership is kept current. The number in parentheses following your name indicates year through which dues have been paid.
- Posters, brochures and promo cards, as well as numerous educational items, can be downloaded off the website's "Library" page and printed for distribution at local fairs and producer gatherings.
- We find that most new members come to the OPP Society via a recommendation from a current member. Simply offering a brochure or promo card to your veterinarian and your buyers may be all that it takes.

Finally, to those of you who do not yet appear in the directory, we'd love to have you join us! (See application form on last page of directory.) You've been included in this mailing either because of your visible support—perhaps a referral to OPPsociety.org from an online discussion group, or a link to our website from yours—or because you've recently been in communication with us. While all members are typically listed in the directory and are encouraged to provide flock/herd information when available, inclusion in the member directory is optional. Also note that ownership of sheep and/or goats is not required for membership.

THANK YOU!

OPP SOCIETY AT WISCONSIN SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL:

Thanks to Bob and Penny Leder (WI), Brenda and Mark Lelli (MI) and Michele Stute (WI) — plus the generosity of the Bluefaced Leicester Breeders Ass'n and the North American Mule Sheep Society — an OPP info table was set up in a prominent location at the recent Wisconsin Festival. Dr. Bob reports that OPP was covered briefly during Friday's "Sheep 101" producer session, and that OPP came up several times on Saturday. Dr. Richard Ehrhardt made mention of OPP as a significant production stifling disease, citing our website as well as the info table. Special thanks to Michele for keeping the table stocked and tidy in spite of a stiff breeze through the barn.

"To be successful with sheep, even when you aren't thinking about them, you had better be thinking about them a little." Ivan Doig, [Dancing at the Rascal Fair](#)

QUOTE CONTRIBUTED BY MARCIA BARINAGA (CA)

JOAN MUELLER, PHD — OPP SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBER:

One week before her 80th birthday, Joan Mueller died at home on her farm in Ferryville, Wisconsin. Joan was a long-time breeder of Clun Forest sheep and an early proponent of controlling OPP. Long before most sheep breeders had even heard of OPP, Joan was working to eradicate it from her flock and to encourage other breeders to confront the disease. Delighted to be a founding member of the OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society, she enthusiastically carried the message about the consequences of ignoring the disease everywhere she went. Joan died as she would have wished: literally with her boots on—and a pail of plumbing tools at hand. RIP.

OPP TO BE MENTIONED IN UPCOMING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV SHOW:

Our newest member Jerry Pickler (MI) was one of the lucky clients when a National Geographic film crew followed his veterinarian for two weeks in May. Jerry wrote that “They filmed the collection of blood samples for OPP testing and interviewed me about why I was doing this . . . then one of my ewe lambs prolapsed when she lambled and the crew was back to film that procedure.” Episode 103 of “The Incredible Dr. Pol” series will air in November on the National Geographic Wild channel. Watch for “Up Sheep’s Creek” on the 5th at 10 p.m. and again on the 11th at 8 p.m. Those without cable should be able to watch on the Nat’l Geographic Wild website.

HOLLY AND PAUL NEATON FAMILY NAMED “2011 WRIGHT COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR”:



In August, the University of Minnesota honored the Neatons and 74 other families from around the state during “Farmfest 2011.” Selected by their county extension committee, Paul and Holly farm several hundred acres of crops in addition to their flock of highly productive Polypays. Son Nick and his wife Amelia (lower right) operate a CSA with several acres of organic vegetables on the farm, son Sam and wife Brittany (lower left) reside in Texas where both are in school, and son Peter is a commercial fisherman in Alaska. Holly recently retired from her position as attending veterinarian for Beckman Coulter Immunodiagnostics, which means that she’ll now be busier than ever with her livestock procurement business and the 200+ lambs that are always present on the farm . . . lambing at the Neaton’s occurs 4 times a year!

AS NOTED IN OUR APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER CAROL RAY, RN (WI) PREFERS TO COLLECT BLOOD SAMPLES FROM THE FORELEG. HERE SHE DESCRIBES HER TECHNIQUE:

I do not shave the foreleg. It’s not necessary as the hair length just above the knee is really quite short. I do use a tourniquet. Pricy tourniquets are available from vet supply houses, and one year I borrowed my vet’s. However this past year I simply took a “used” tourniquet from my workplace. (We throw them out after using them 1x). With the tourniquet firmly applied as high up the front leg as possible, i.e. close to the sheep’s body, within a minute a very palpable, obvious vein appears. You can find it with your fingers by searching on the inner aspect of the foreleg, roughly a couple of inches above the knee. It’s then simply a matter of inserting the tip of your needle roughly parallel to the sheep’s leg—bevel side up of course. I’d like to get a vacutube, as sheep tend to jerk when they’re scared/hurt (surprise), but at present I’ve been simply letting the blood drip through the needle into the open specimen tube. It’s impossible to use a syringe as the sheep won’t hold still and I’d lose the connection. Afterwards I cap the blood tube and handle the blood as per lab requirements (spun down for OPP).

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

WENDY HARTMAN, DVM

HILL WINDS VETERINARY PRACTICE — NEW YORK

607-862-3206

docwjh@gmail.com

DAVE AND RACHEL JOSEPH

CREEKSIDE TUNIS — OHIO

740-474-9862

creeksidetunis@frontier.com

JERRY L PICKLER

BORDER LEICESTERS — MICHIGAN

989-866-2983

jlpickler@gmail.com