

# the nEWESletter

SHEEP PERSISTED : A community of regional shepherds focusing on resource accessibility within the sheep industry.

Directories

Flock maintenance

Mentorship Connections

Establishing & Maintaining Flock Goals

April 2023

## First Gathering Held at Ewetopia Fiber Mill



Here's to our first gathering and the first nEWESletter! Nearly 20 sheep-enthusiastic folks met and talked loudly on whatever sheep chatter we could fit into the three-hour meeting. We were able to collect 15 questionnaires to gain some insight on each attendee, their topics of interests and preference of how often to hold Sheep Persisted gatherings.

The turnout was more than we expected and we are delighted about everyone's interest within the sheep industry.

## From the UW-Madison Extension, with Carolyn Ihde

Hello shepherds, shepherdesses, and sheep enthusiasts! The UW-Madison Division of Extension has resources you may find helpful. I would like to bring your attention to what we refer to as our [Livestock Topic Hub](#); really, it's just our website where we house our [articles](#), [decision-making tools](#), [webinar recordings](#), and advertise [events](#). The topic hub contains resources for beef, poultry, swine, and sheep and goat producers. We are a small team of dedicated Extension educators working together to bring non-biased research-based information to Wisconsin's livestock producers. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns or if you would simply like to think through an idea.



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## Focus on Fiber Farming Extended to April Meeting

Our focused chat in March on fiber farming included listing specific fine to medium wool producing breeds, some management options for maintaining a cleaner fleece and differences between fine wool and longwool fibers.

The questionnaire results showed much interest in marketing value-added wool products and skirting fleeces so we are extending our fiber farming focus into April's gathering.

If you are interested in learning more about fiber farming or wanting to gain more insight on acquiring and/or maintaining fine fiber sheep, please reach out to Kathryn or Tyne.

Pictured: (right) A dense, crimped and 5-inch stapled fine wool fleece from shearing day at Ewetopia Farm.

**Focused Chat, from 6-7pm**

- production options for wool
- marketing sheep by-products
- production costs of value-added wool items
- raw fleece skirting demonstrations



## Results are in!

Sheep Persisted will meet the 4th Wednesday of every month

Our next gathering will be held on April 26. We will chat a bit about skirting and marketing value-added wool products. Focused Topic for May meeting TBD at gathering.

Meeting location is Ewetopia Fiber Mill, 220 W Main St, La Farge, WI.

## Farm in Focus

This section will focus on a local shepherd, haymaker or producer of sheep by-products.

If you would like your farm and/or work to be included in our newsletter, please reach out to Tyne at [tmhanft@gmail.com](mailto:tmhanft@gmail.com) to chat further.

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## Mentorship Directory

When I (Tyne) started with sheep in 2020, I was lucky to have found someone who was not just excited about sheep but was also excited about sharing their gained knowledge of sheep care. This education and support was helpful as I stumbled along in my daily on-the-job training of tending to my sheep. I consider my mentor's role and support as a key in the success of establishing and reaching my flock goals to date.

At the time, shepherds with 5+ years of experience managing sheep would qualify for a mentor role. Mentees do not need to have sheep to be included in the program yet have a goal to acquire sheep in the next 2 years.

If you would like to be considered a mentor or are a mentee looking for a mentor - please email Tyne at [tmhanft@gmail.com](mailto:tmhanft@gmail.com).



## Work Day Help Sign-ups!

Are you looking for more handling experience with sheep, want to help local shepherds or need some extra help on certain days of the year?

Sheep work days could include helping move sheep, handing, setting up fencing, assisting in vaccinations, shearing day help and/or sheep processing (tail docking, castrating, ear tagging, etc).

If interested in helping or if you would like assistance with your own flock, please reach out to Tyne at [tmhanft@gmail.com](mailto:tmhanft@gmail.com).

*\*Biosecurity regulations vary by farm and are to be determined prior to arriving on work day.*



Pictured: (left) raw fine wool fleece during skirting

(above) Tyne helping out on vaccination day with her mentor's sheep. This was seconds after a battle of wills between this very strong, pregnant ewe and the handler. The handler won - albeit a little winded.



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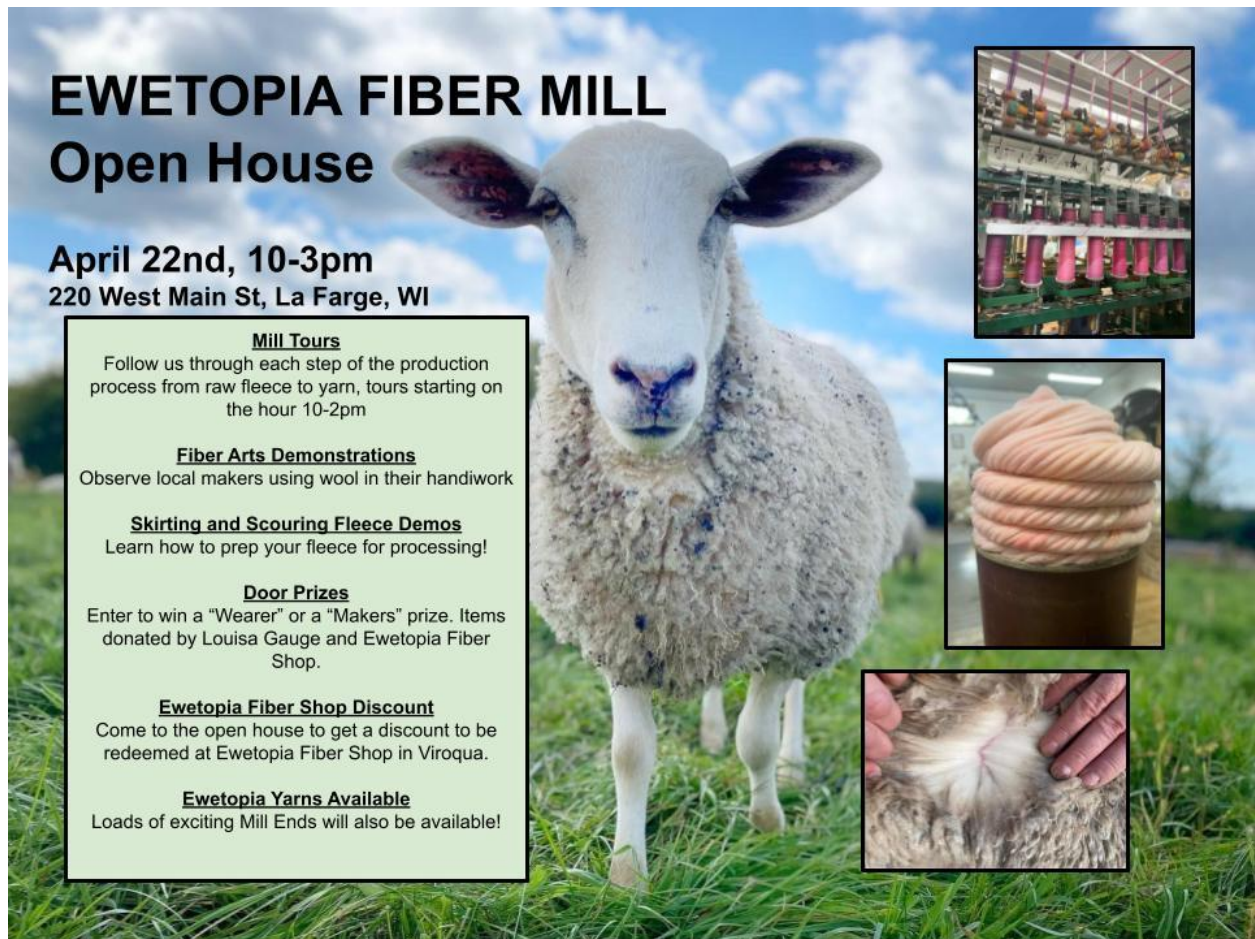
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## Ewetopia Fiber Mill Open House

Join us for our Fiber Mill's first Open House on April 22nd from 10-3pm!



### EWETOPIA FIBER MILL Open House

**April 22nd, 10-3pm**  
220 West Main St, La Farge, WI

**Mill Tours**  
Follow us through each step of the production process from raw fleece to yarn, tours starting on the hour 10-2pm




**Fiber Arts Demonstrations**  
Observe local makers using wool in their handiwork

**Skirting and Scouring Fleece Demos**  
Learn how to prep your fleece for processing!

**Door Prizes**  
Enter to win a "Wearer" or a "Makers" prize. Items donated by Louisa Gauge and Ewetopia Fiber Shop.

**Ewetopia Fiber Shop Discount**  
Come to the open house to get a discount to be redeemed at Ewetopia Fiber Shop in Viroqua.

**Ewetopia Yarns Available**  
Loads of exciting Mill Ends will also be available!



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## **Breeders Directory**

Want to be included in our breeders' directory?

Let us know!

## **Classifieds**

Have equipment, feed, pelts, raw or processed wool or live sheep for sale or trade?

Put it in the classifieds section for other community shepherds and wool enthusiasts to purchase!

## **Local events**

Ewetopia Fiber Mill Open House, April 22nd

Wisconsin State Fair, August 3-13, West Allis, WI

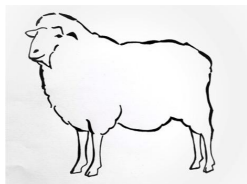
WI Sheep & Wool Festival, September 8-10th, 2023

Beginning Sheep Shearing School, Early December 2023, Arlington Sheep Unit

## **Local UW-Extension Officers**

Carolyn Ihde, Crawford and Richland County Agriculture Educator, [carolyn.ihde@wisc.edu](mailto:carolyn.ihde@wisc.edu)

Todd Taylor, Research Program Manager, Shepherd, [toddtaylor@wisc.edu](mailto:toddtaylor@wisc.edu), (608)332-4914



Sheep Persisted  
La Farge, WI

Sponsored by Ewetopia Fiber Mill

<https://www.ewetopiafibershop.com/fiber-mill>