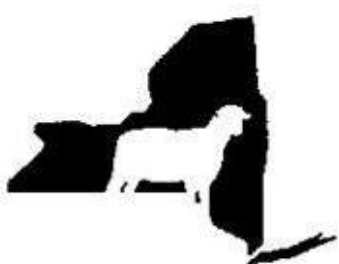


# **2023 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium**

**October 27 - 29, 2023**

**Frank B. Morrison Hall  
Department of Animal Science  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY**

**Thank you to the  
2023 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium  
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Empire Sheep Producers Association



Cashmere Goat Association





## In Memory of Dr. Michael Thonney

Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Animal Science

After a short illness and hospital stay, Mike Thonney, professor, and director of graduate studies in the Cornell University Department of Animal Science, died on April 23 in Ithaca. He was 71 years old.

Mike was raised on a farm in eastern Washington where he had a small flock of Hampshire sheep. He graduated in animal science from Washington State University in 1971 and received his MS (1973) and PhD (1975) degrees in nutrition at the University of Minnesota. Mike joined the Cornell Animal Science faculty in 1975 and took over direction of the Cornell Sheep Program in 1998.

Over a Cornell career that spanned more than 45 years, Professor Thonney made numerous contributions to animal science and agriculture through research that enhanced year-round sheep production systems, nutrition of highly productive sheep, and vaccination programs for ewes and lamb. He combined these efforts with innovative extension and teaching programs.

Mike was profoundly committed to the viability of small livestock farms. His initial sheep research centered around out of season breeding, winter grazing and the development of economical feed rations using byproduct feeds high in fermentable fiber. When the Cornell Sheep Flock was sharply reduced in 2016, Mike instigated its move directly onto campus and piloted practical methods to use meat sheep breeds for commercial sheep dairying. With a “can do” attitude, he established an on-campus, student-operated sheep dairy using tiny steps such as building a milking platform from scratch, providing his own funds for initial equipment, and convincing a team of volunteers to remodel the defunct Stevenson Rd. Sheep Facility. In the course of that hundreds of undergraduate students, many with no previous farm experience, have learned to monitor lambing and artificially rear lamb, milk sheep, perform flock management tasks, and some to run a dairy under this program. The accessibility of the program results in student families regularly observing lambs on the Cornell sheep pastures.

Mike was adamant that sheep grazing could mitigate the potential negative effects of land use change from agriculture to energy use and would contribute to solutions to climate change and habitat decline by their co-location with solar grazing. Through the efforts of Mike Thonney (and his dedicated graduate students, interns, and farm staff), the Cornell sheep flock and Cornell solar farms have been instrumental in increasing livestock farmer knowledge of ways to diversify income through multiple use of livestock combining meat with dairy and co-location with NYS renewable energy projects.

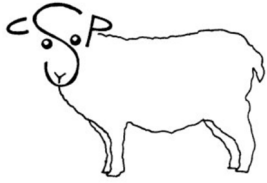
He was deeply involved in the small-ruminant research and extension community both in NY State and nationally and participated in frequent events and conferences organized by industry associations. He greatly strengthened the small-ruminant farming community through outreach and support. Mike developed research, extension, and teaching programs that promoted better nutrition, health, selection, management, and marketing strategies for highly productive sheep systems. His detailed emails to questions on the Sheep and Goat Program email list servers truly left a void, and his expertise is greatly missed.

His excellent teaching and mentoring skills and obvious passion for the subject led many of his students to discover their own enthusiasm for small ruminant husbandry. Mike loved spending time in the barn and was especially adept at teaching lambs to quickly take a bottle and transition to lambars. His expertise, dedication and wry humor are sorely missed.

Through all his endeavors he made an immeasurable impact on his students, colleagues, friends, the small-ruminant research and extension community, and family. Professor Thonney was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia, in 2012. He is survived by his two children, Benjamin of Ithaca, NY and Elizabeth of Houston, TX.



Cornell University Sheep and Goat Program  
Ithaca, October 20th, 2023



# 2023 Cornell Sheep & Goat Symposium

Friday, October 27th – Sunday, October 29th, 2023

Frank B. Morrison Hall

Cornell University



## Speaker Biographies and Contact Information

### Christen Adels, MBA

Munchin Hill Farm

ADGA District 2 Director

Email: [christen.adels@yahoo.com](mailto:christen.adels@yahoo.com)



Christen Adels is a director and life member of the American Dairy Goat Association and serves as President of the Pennsylvania Dairy Goat Association. She was active in 4-H in Dutchess County, New York and has raised French Alpine dairy goats for over 40 years. She is a licensed attorney and certified public accountant in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and currently resides in Beaver Falls, PA. She currently serves as Professor of Business and Chair of the Department of Business, Accounting & Sport Management and as the MBA Program Director at Geneva College in Western Pennsylvania.

### Jim Baldwin

Foxfire Farms

590 Asbury Road

Freeville, NY 13068

Phone: 607-257-1683

Email: [jrbaldwin1@verizon.net](mailto:jrbaldwin1@verizon.net)



Jim began his shearing career in 1992 by attending a New Zealand Wool Board shearing school at Cornell T & R, at the behest of Brian Magee, a long-time friend from Jim's days in Animal Science. He attended 2 more NZWB schools and several more advanced schools over the next few years. He started professional shearing in 1993, shearing about 300 sheep that year and increasing over the years to a maximum of 2300 in 2015 with numbers decreasing a bit with the demise of the T & R facility until a major injury in 2018. He was the primary shearer at Cornell T & R for nearly 20 years. Total lifetime shearing is around 40,000 head, not a lot but he started at the late age of 43. Since then he has recovered but also grown old...at 74 he is cutting down considerably but has more time for his own farm work and fleece enterprise and concentrating on smaller, fiber oriented flocks. During this time he became a Level 2 wool classer under ASI by attending 3 ASI sponsored schools. He presently owns a flock of 50 merino sheep raised primarily for wool.. Wool sales are almost exclusively on Facebook. The goal at Foxfire is to produce fine wool in the 18-20 micron range and length exceeding 4 inches. Not without its challenges, but can be done.

### Bruce Berggren-Thomas

Teaching Support Specialist

CALS/Animal Science

Cornell University

Email: [bb66@cornell.edu](mailto:bb66@cornell.edu)



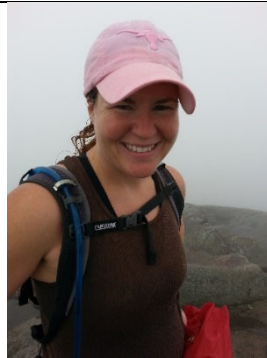
Bruce Berggren-Thomas works as a teaching support specialist in the Animal Science department (animal nutrition and reproduction) and teaches a one credit wool production and processing class. He grew up on a dairy farm but became a sheep person after shearing his first sheep and processing his first fleece back in the colonial period... sorry, the American Bicentennial.

**Dr. Megan Bernard, DVM**  
Theriogenology Resident  
Cornell University  
Email: [meb396@cornell.edu](mailto:meb396@cornell.edu)



Dr. Bernard grew up in Massachusetts and attended UMass Amherst for her undergraduate education, where she fell in love with small ruminants and camelids while working on the teaching farms. She went on to attend Cornell vet school, where she graduated with her DVM in 2018. She then moved to Western New York and joined a large animal ambulatory practice for several years, doing a mix of equine, bovine, and small ruminant medicine. Last year, she returned to Ithaca to complete a residency in theriogenology (reproductive medicine specialty) and will take her specialty board exam in 2024.

**Dr. Eireann Colins, DVM**  
NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets  
Animal Industry Division  
Office: 518-457-3502  
Email:  
[Eireann.Collins@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Eireann.Collins@agriculture.ny.gov)



Dr. Eireann Collins is the Emergency Programs Coordinator for New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Division of Animal Industry and currently serving as the Vice President of the National Alliance for State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs. She has worked in mixed animal practice with a focus on Production Animal Medicine, in Minnesota, Texas, Maryland, Vermont, Massachusetts and New York State, and for USDA APHIS FSIS. Dr. Collins is a graduate of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

NYSCHAP – Secure Food Supply

Secure Food Supply for Continuity of Business is a collaboration between Industry, State Government, USDA and academia to establish science based best management practices for high consequence animal disease planning.

Secure Food Supply (SFS) provide guidance to livestock producers on how to protect their animals from disease through enhanced biosecurity, implement protocols that will allow for the movement of product and animals under regulatory quarantine and movement restrictions, and better prepared the agricultural industry to survive major disruptions caused by a foreign animal disease outbreak or other disasters.

**Kathryn Davis**  
Econ. Dev. Program  
Specialist  
NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets  
Ag Development Division



Email: [kathryn.davis@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:kathryn.davis@agriculture.ny.gov)

Kathryn Davis is an Economic Development Program Specialist with the Division of Agricultural Development at the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets where she is the coordinator for the new Natural Fiber Textile Development Workgroup. She also has a small flock of sheep located in the hills of northern Rensselaer County. When not working or taking care of her flock, she can be found reading, hiking, or knitting (in descending order of speed).

**Paulie Drexler**

Springside Farm

1940 Jerome Rd.

Fabius, NY 13063

315-632-1008

[www.springsidefarm.net](http://www.springsidefarm.net)

We began as a dairy farm 48 years ago, added Christmas trees, and for many years had sheep and alpacas as a sideline. We sold the cows in 2003 and went down the rabbit hole of agritourism. Pumpkin patch/corn maze and fall activities began in 2010. We plant about 12K Christmas trees in April, lamb out around 75 ewes in April/May (that number has fluctuated from 30 to 125 in the past), host weddings and birthday parties from May through early September; shear trees and make hay all summer; host a children's day camp in July, offer U-pick juneberries, red raspberries, and blueberries in season, and Sunday morning pancake breakfasts in July and August. Pumpkin season starts mid-September, runs to Halloween. We host a Christmas Night Market in November, followed by tree harvest and wreath making after the 2<sup>nd</sup> hard frost. Christmas tree sales begin the weekend before Thanksgiving & continue until Christmas Eve. We also have a Santa Expedition, 16 nights starting Thanksgiving week, for families. The public is at our farm in some capacity for 9 months of the year.

**Richard Ehrhardt**

Senior Extension Specialist-

Small Ruminants

Animal Science / Large Animal

Clinical Sciences

454 S. Shaw Lane, 1287f

Anthony Hall

Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI 48824-1225

Email: [ehrhart5@msu.edu](mailto:ehrhart5@msu.edu)

Office: (517) 353-2906

Cell: (517) 899-0040

FAX: 517 353-1699



Richard Ehrhardt is a senior extension specialist in small ruminants whose aim is to translate scientific findings over a broad range including nutrition, physiology, infectious disease, metabolism, agronomy, and climate science to improved care, knowledge, and management of small ruminants within his diverse client audience. He pursues an applied research program aimed at addressing critical knowledge gaps identified in the field through interaction with innovative farmers and has published broadly in scientific journals across his discipline. His applied research and extension efforts are tightly interwoven with a core focus on improving production efficiency through appropriate production systems for a given resource base. He has placed particular focus on these areas: improving production efficiency through strategic nutritional management, improving the carbon footprint of the sheep industry, enhancing whole-farm forage utilization, improving reproductive efficiency, and improving preventative health programs. Dr. Ehrhardt has developed several large extension programs that he actively pursues and has a national and international audience as an educator and scientist.

**Rachael Gately, DVM**

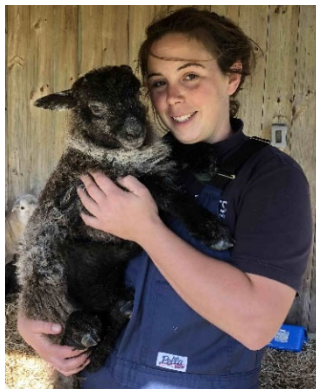
Assistant Clinical Professor

Dept. of Ambulatory Medicine

and Theriogenology

Tufts Veterinary Field Service

Email:

[Rachael.Gately@tufts.edu](mailto:Rachael.Gately@tufts.edu)

Rachael is from Connecticut where she has been working at Tufts Veterinary Field Service as an Assistant Clinical Professor for 12 years as part of a ten-doctor team providing large animal clinical service while educating fourth-year veterinary students. She earned her DVM from Texas A&M University in 2012 and completed an internship at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Rachael has raised nationally competitive breeding sheep for almost 30 years, which is the root of her passion for small ruminant advanced reproductive techniques. She manages Pine Knob Farm where they run approximately 100 head of Polled Dorset and Texel sheep. Her

**Don George and Terri Sines**  
Phone: 919-905-0315  
Email: [Majenli.dg@gmail.com](mailto:Majenli.dg@gmail.com)



daily activities at TVFS include dairy cattle herd work, small ruminant general practice, and all avenues of Theriogenology. Rachael currently splits her small ruminant ART work between seed stock producers and researchers producing transgenic models to study human genetic neurologic diseases.

Don came from a family of 10 children; he is number 5 of the 10. He is currently employed with a company called Bechtel as a Delivery Manager/Expeditor. Bechtel has offices in 41 countries around the world and is recognized for the construction of the Hoover Dam as well as many other amazing works around the world.

Don got his start helping raise goats about 12 years ago when he reunited with Terri Sines after not seeing her since graduating high school together. Terri has been raising goats for the past 36 years. They had a crush on each other all through grade school and high school, but Don's parents would not allow him to date her because of religious differences. 12 years ago, both Terri and Don found themselves single after getting out of failed marriages. She found Don on Facebook and sent him a friend request which he gladly accepted. After chatting and learning they were only about an hour and 15 minutes from each other, Don asked her to meet him in Binghamton, NY for lunch on a Saturday and she accepted. They quickly realized they were meant to be together. And that is when Don started learning how to raise goats together with Terri. Don asked Terri what her goal was in having these goats. She said she loved working with them and it was a loved hobby for her. She also said she would love to have a National Champion one day. Don said "well I do not know a thing about goats but you can teach me everything you know and we will ask questions and see if we can figure out how to accomplish that."

Prior to reuniting with Terri if you asked Don if he wanted a goat, he would have said why would he want a silly goat. They have not reached to level of having a National Champion yet but in 2021 they did have an ADGA Lamancha Reserve Jr National Champion. In 2017 at Nationals they won Lamancha Premier Breeder, Lamancha Premier Exhibitor, and Lamancha Premier Sire. They have learned a lot in the 12 years they have been together and are still learning every day. They love helping educate others on good management of goats and sharing anything they have learned.



**Katherine Rose Gottwald**

Graduate Student

Cornell QMPS Lab

Email: [krk96@cornell.edu](mailto:krk96@cornell.edu)

Katherine is a dedicated researcher and advocate for the agricultural industry. Born and raised in upstate New York, she developed a deep love for animals and the land during her daily visits to her grandparents' small hobby farms, where she would feed calves, ride horses, chase chickens, and process meats.

She holds a bachelor's degree in animal science with a minor in agricultural education from SUNY Cobleskill. Katherine has been a member of the Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS) team at Cornell University for over three and a half years, initially as a field technician, gaining hands-on experience in the world of milk quality and animal health, and later transitioning to the role of a graduate student.

Beyond her academic pursuits, Katherine enjoys outdoor activities such as biking, rock climbing, hiking, and camping with her husband and their three dogs. Currently, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Animal Science, focusing on milk quality, epidemiology, and cow-calf relationships and prediction of disease. Katherine's commitment to animal welfare and her valuable experiences in the agricultural field are shaping her into a well-rounded and curious member in the field of animal science.

**Betsy Hodge**

Extension Livestock Specialist

CCE St. Lawrence County

2043B State Highway 68

Canton, NY 13617

Email: [bmf9@cornell.edu](mailto:bmf9@cornell.edu)

Betsy Hodge is a semi-retired Extension Educator from the North Country. She has raised sheep and meat goats for many years in flocks as small as 5 and as big as 250 head. The sheep flock at the Extension Farm in Canton was used for several research projects on lambing, parasites and feeding. Betsy's interest is in pasture management, parasites and making your farm fit with the rest of your life. Her current flock is 20 spoiled hair sheep, a couple guardian dogs and a couple barn cats.

**Michele Kline**

Nellie's Knoll Creamery

Email:

[michelelyynkline@gmail.com](mailto:michelelyynkline@gmail.com)

Michele Kline and her husband Bert own and operate Nellie's Knoll Creamery in Berkshire, NY. She makes chevre, feta, yogurt, kefir, fudge, caramel, and bottled milk. She also manufactures soaps and lotions. They sell year-round at the Binghamton Farmer's market. She and her husband started with 5 goats on 5 acres (Our Five Acre Homestead) in 2013. They expanded in 2018 and now have approximately 40 dairy goats, half a dozen or so meat goats, 3 guard dogs, 8 kunekune pigs on 62 acres in Berkshire. Raising goats and working with young people are two of her two passions. When she is not farming, she is teaching agriculture and coordinating work-based learning experiences at TST BOCES in Ithaca, NY.

**Nikola Kochendoerfer, PhD**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
CALs Animal Science  
Cornell Sheep & Goat Program  
Fox Farm  
114 Frank B. Morrison Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-4801  
Email: [nk584@cornell.edu](mailto:nk584@cornell.edu)



Niko herded sheep for four years at a large-scale German dairy, crop, and sheep farm cooperative in Eastern Germany, eventually serving as manager of the cooperative. In 2012, she graduated from Anhalt University in Germany with a BA of Engineering in Agricultural Management. She received her PhD in Animal Science at Cornell University in 2020, studying diets for non-traditional dairy ewes managed in accelerated and year-round lambing and milking systems. Currently, Niko is a postdoctoral fellow in the Animal Science Department at Cornell University, leading a multi-year, collaborative, sheep grazing study at a 54-acre solar site adjacent to Cornell University campus.

**Janice L. Liotta**  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University  
C4-114 VMC  
930 Campus Road  
Ithaca NY, 14853-6401  
PH Lab: 607-253-3394  
PH Office: 607-253-3734  
email: [JLL55@cornell.edu](mailto:JLL55@cornell.edu)



Jan received a degree in biology (major focus genetics) from Purdue University, IN. She has managed Dwight Bowman's parasitology research laboratory at the Cornell Veterinary School since 2003, teaching parasitology laboratory techniques internationally to animal producers and scholars. During the past 10 years she has trained and supervised numerous student employees in the fecal analysis component for Cornell's goat and sheep studies on alternative methods of parasite control field trials.

**Christine McBrearty-Hulse**  
Cashmere Goat Association: Secretary  
<https://cashmeregoatassociation.org/>  
Clean Cashmere  
<https://www.cleancashmere.farm/>  
Hulse Hill Farm  
<https://hulsehillsfarm.com/>  
Email: [cmcbreartyhulse@gmail.com](mailto:cmcbreartyhulse@gmail.com)



Born in Queens, NY and raised for most of her life in upstate NY, Christine pursued a career in education. Spanning a 31-year career as school counselor and a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, heading back to her roots in agriculture and animal husbandry from her early years in 4-H was always a goal. Hulse Hill Farm is home to a small herd of award-winning cashmere goats. Christine has been a member of the Cashmere Goat Association for 15 years and has served as secretary of the for over 10 years.

Hulse Hill Farm is committed to the improvement of fiber and animal quality, as well as the improvement of farm management practices. In 2016 Hulse Hill Farm became a farm stay bed and breakfast. The farm stay experience allows Christine to merge her love of learning and education with her passion for cashmere farming. After visiting Nora Kravis in Italy, she was inspired by the idea of creating a network of cashmere professionals at all levels globally.

In 2017 Christine organized an International Cashmere Conference in Tuscany, Italy with cashmere growers from all over the world. Heidi Dickens and Christine McBrearty-Hulse crossed pastures as cashmere growers at this conference. The vision of creating a direct avenue to connect US cashmere growers to an end user was further fostered from this trip to Italy. It became apparent at this conference that when US cashmere was analyzed against other countries' cashmere it surpassed length, style, and micron. No other resource had offered

homegrown US cashmere to buyers looking to source a completely US product with cashmere be it through yarn or other textiles. Heidi and Christine's vision of *Clean Cashmere* for US sourced cashmere from local farms took root. Knowing there were many small farms with under 50 goats, as well as the hurdles these farms were experiencing with processing challenges, led to a business model that would benefit the growers and product buyers. Starting with a core group of selective growers that follow guidelines to ensure animal welfare, quality graded fiber, and environmental standards, allowed our sourcing practices to ensure a sustainable supply chain. Our vision is to source high-quality cashmere directly from cashmere growers throughout the United States.

**Steven Messmer**

Lively Run Goat Dairy Farm & Creamery  
8978 County Rd. 142, Interlaken, NY 14847  
Email: [messmersteve@gmail.com](mailto:messmersteve@gmail.com)  
<https://livelyrun.com/>



Steve Messmer and his family are proud owners of Lively Run Goat Dairy, one of the longest operating commercial goat creameries in the country. The family took over the business in 1995 after Steve was discharged from military service in Europe and brought his family back to his home roots. Susanne handled herd management and cheesemaking, Steve did morning milking and much of the business operation and farm maintenance, while their two young sons helped with chores and entertained the goats. Son Pete became head cheesemaker in 2013 while son Dave helped with the organizational part of the creamery, allowing Susanne and Steve to engulf themselves in the customer and business side of the farm and diversify into a wide range of agritourism activities. During COVID the creamery developed a program to convert donated milk from local dairies into dairy products for NYS food pantries.

**Thomas Overton, Ph.D., Chair**  
Department of Animal Science  
Professor of Dairy Management  
Email: [tro2@cornell.edu](mailto:tro2@cornell.edu)



Thomas R. Overton, Ph.D., is a Professor of Dairy Management and Chair of the Department of Animal Science at Cornell University. Tom is recognized widely for his research and extension efforts relating to nutritional physiology of the transition dairy cow. He serves as Director of the statewide PRO-DAIRY extension program at Cornell. He teaches the dairy cattle nutrition course for undergraduates and co-teaches a similar course for veterinary students. He served as Associate Director, Agriculture and Food Systems, for Cornell Cooperative Extension from 2014 to 2019. In this college-level position, he worked to build additional regional agriculture specialist extension teams and strengthened several college-level extension programs through his leadership. Tom assumed the role of interim chair of the Department of Animal Science in July 2019 and was appointed chair in November 2020.

Tom has a B.S. degree from Cornell University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois. He has authored or co-authored more than 90 peer-reviewed scientific publications and numerous conference proceedings, extension publications, and popular press articles. He was awarded the Cargill Animal

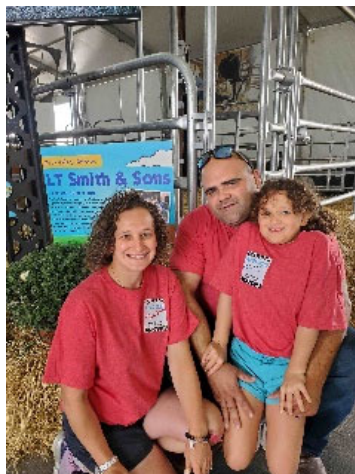
Nutrition Young Scientist Award by the American Dairy Science Association in 2006 and the ADSA Foundation Scholar Award in 2007. In 2013, he was named a Faculty Fellow of the David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University.

**Kate Pelkey**  
Sole Proprietor &  
Shepherdess  
Otter Lake Farm & Fiber  
10528 Short Cut Road  
Weedsport, New York 13166  
Email:  
[otterlakefarmfiber@gmail.com](mailto:otterlakefarmfiber@gmail.com)  
[otterlakefarm.net](http://otterlakefarm.net)



Otter Lake Farm & Fiber was founded in 2016 by Kate Pelkey. We are a small woman-owned family farm located at the southern end of Otter Lake in the Town of Cato, NY. We focus on and are always seeking to improve our sustainable farm practices that benefit the environment and surrounding ecosystem, the livestock we are privileged to care for and, of course, the community that supports us. We are involved in breeding and conserving the American developed Romeldale sheep and their color derivative, CVM (California Variegated Mutant). We produce NRCC registered breeding stock, lambs for USDA inspected retail cuts, half and whole freezer lambs as well as lamb sausage and kielbasa. We also offer exquisitely soft Romeldale/CVM yarn, roving, combed top, and raw wool to fiber artists in a wide variety of natural colors. Over the last 7 years we have diversified our farm to include honey bees and chickens for egg production. In addition, we built a farm shop in 2022 where we sell our fiber, meat, knitting and spinning products/accessories, handcrafted-on-our-farm soap, skincare and hair care products. As of fall 2023, we are breeding registered English Shepherd farm/herding dogs, hoping to have puppies available at the end of February 2024. We welcome the community to visit our small farm by appointment to learn more about diversified farming on small acreage.

**Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith, DVM**  
Field Veterinarian. NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets.  
Email: [jessica.scillierismith@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:jessica.scillierismith@agriculture.ny.gov)



Jessica Scillieri Smith, DVM was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, and while she always wanted to be a veterinarian, a career with food animals only became a goal after started her time at The University of Vermont where she earned a BS in Animal Science. She stayed in New England for veterinary school at Tufts University, graduating in 2009. Upon graduation she moved to Canton NY to enter private mixed animal practice at the Canton Animal Clinic. In 2012 she left private practice to take a Senior Extension Associate position with Cornell University serving as the Lab Director for the Quality Milk Production Services lab in Canton NY where she enjoyed pursuing research into mastitis caused by *Lactococcus* species bacteria. Jessica joined the Department in 2017 and has worked in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension working on surveillance testing of small ruminant herds/flocks for Johne's disease in conjunction with NYS's sheep and goat health assurance program (NYSSGHAP). She also enjoys emergency preparedness programming and working with farms on secure food supply planning. Jessica is married to a dairy farmer in Canton, has a 9-year-old daughter, 1 cat, 1 dog and a handful of Brown Swiss show cows.

**Dr. Mary Smith, DVM**

Ambulatory & Production Medicine  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University  
Vet Medical Ctr. Box 29  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Email: [mcs8@cornell.edu](mailto:mcs8@cornell.edu)



Mary is currently a professor in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. She has been a clinician in the Ambulatory and Production Medicine Clinic at Cornell since graduation from the NYS College of Veterinary Medicine in 1972. Although she finds all large animals fascinating, her special interests include the 'miscellaneous species' (sheep, goats & camelids), gross pathology, & poisonous plants. Mary has coauthored two books: Goat Medicine, now in its second edition (with David Sherman) and Color Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of the Sheep and Goat (with Karl Linklater).

**Kimberly A. Snedden, DVM, MS**

Assistant Professor of Practice  
Veterinary Support Services  
Animal Health Diagnostic Center  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University  
240 Farrier Road  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Email: [kas25@cornell.edu](mailto:kas25@cornell.edu)



Dr. Kimberly Snedden is a member of the Veterinary Support Services team at the Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory. She received a Master of Science degree in animal nutrition from Cornell University prior to receiving a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Louisiana State University. After graduation she worked at a mixed animal practice in New Hampshire for 3 years before moving back to upstate New York to practice small animal medicine and surgery. She also practiced in the shelter setting as surgeon and medical director of Shelter Outreach Service. She enjoys building relationships with pet owners and veterinary colleagues. Her area of interests includes infectious disease, shelter medicine and surgery, and encouraging access to veterinary care for all animals.

**tatiana Stanton, PhD**

Retired NYS Goat & Sheep  
Extension Specialist  
CALs Animal Science  
Cornell Sheep & Goat Program  
114 Frank B. Morrison Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-4801  
Email: [tls7@cornell.edu](mailto:tls7@cornell.edu)



tatiana graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1976 with a BS in Crop Science followed by a stint in the Peace Corps as a goat extensionist for the Jamaica 4-H. While getting her MS in Dairy Science & Tropical Soils from Cal Poly, she was herdsman for a large commercial goat dairy. After graduation she worked as a goat/sheep specialist for Heifer Project in the Caribbean and Central America training new and experienced farmers and was herdsman for the International Dairy Goat Center at Prairie View, Texas. In 1990, she obtained a PhD in Animal Breeding at Cornell University studying genotype X environment interactions in dairy cattle in Latin America and the US. tatiana has been the Cornell small ruminant extension specialist since 2000 conducting applied research on small ruminant management issues. She manages her own pasture-based meat goat herd and hopes to do volunteer work with goat and sheep farmers in other countries during retirement and laze around reading fiction.

**Rich Toebe, MS, PAS**

Watershed Livestock  
Specialist  
CCE Delaware Co.  
Watershed Ag Program  
44 West Street  
Walton, NY 13856  
Email: [rrt43@cornell.edu](mailto:rrt43@cornell.edu)



Rich is a Senior Resource Educator at CCE of Delaware County & the Watershed Agriculture Program. He is also a member of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists and holds his certification in Sheep. His current duties include the development and delivery of educational programs on livestock management and nutrition, pasture management, and dairy calf health. In his spare time, Rich raises sheep on his farm & enjoys exploring the Catskill Region of NY.

**Jessica Waltemyer MPS**

Cornell Sheep Farm  
Manager/Lecturer  
149 Frank B. Morrison Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-4801  
Email: [jrk272@cornell.edu](mailto:jrk272@cornell.edu)



Jessica was born & raised on a small family farm in Renfrew, PA. She has always had a passion for animals, community outreach, & knowledge. In 2010, she graduated from University of Findlay with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. Shortly after graduation, she started her career at Cornell University in the Animal Science department. She received her Masters of Professional Studies from Cornell University in 2019 with a focus in Animal Science Education. Jessica collaborates with multiple staff and faculty developing research projects while managing the 250 head Cornell Sheep Flock. In addition to her management role, she instructs the Practical Large Animal Handling Course, co-lectures the Dairy Sheep Management Course, Instructs Advance Lambing Internships, & is the Lecturer for the Meats Course.

**Heather Warren**

Lochan Mor Farm  
Email: [lochanmorfarm1@gmail.com](mailto:lochanmorfarm1@gmail.com)



fleeces • spinning fiber • yarn  
locally processed & hand dyed



Heather Warren was raised on a generational dairy farm located in Cato, NY, and attended Paul Smith's College and SUNY ESF where she received a degree in Forestry and Environmental Science. She is also a licensed land surveyor. In 2004 She and her husband purchased an old, overused farm in Ira, in northern Cayuga County. Being a spinner and knitter, she immediately started making plans to add some kind of fiber animals and to take a look at how they could help the land rest and rebuild itself. After a lot of research and weighing pros and cons, they settled on Colored Angora Goats. A few years later, Heather stumbled across the Livestock Conservancy and headed down the rabbit hole of heritage/rare breed sheep. Their first addition was the Leicester Longwool, a few years later the Romeldale CVM and the latest additions (their grandsons' 4-H project) are the Shropshires, all roaming the fields with our Romneys. They work alongside their County's Soil and Water department to create responsible farm and grazing plans and are New York State Certified and Grown. Lochan Mor Farm is currently working on a Silvopasture plan, due to the amount of woodland on the property and the potential for the animals to help improve it. They host farm events and classes, have a farm store and an online store, offer fleece washing services and sell registered breeding stock.

**Marcia Weinert**

Undeniably Loopy (fiber design & instruction)

Email: [undeniablyloopy@gmail.com](mailto:undeniablyloopy@gmail.com)



Marcia Weinert (who is “*Undeniably Loopy!*”) has been addicted to turning fluff into stuff ever since her 9-year-old daughter asked to learn to spindle yarn, a quarter century ago! She teaches spinning, knitting, felting, and crochet at shops, guilds and festivals across the northeastern US, especially the Weaving & Fiber Arts Center in Rochester, NY. Her knitwear designs have appeared in books, magazines, and online forums. Marcia is trained with the American Sheep Industry as a wool classer, handler and shearer. She enjoys volunteering her “roustabout” skills at shearing time to small-flock shepherds in the NE, as well as brokering their wool to local dyers and handspinners.