

Southern Adirondack Fiber Producers Cooperative, Inc.

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Fiber Producers Cooperative Receives Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement Grant Award

GREENWICH – During last month’s Washington County Fair, The Southern Adirondack Fiber Producers Cooperative received a Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement grant award in the amount of \$1,000 to help fund the Coop’s new “Quality fleece production awareness and education project”. The award was presented to farmer members of the Coop at the Fairgrounds Sheep Barn by Christopher Trusso and Rella Moag Getty from the Farm Credit East office in Greenwich.

Assemblyman Tony Jordan (R-Greenwich) was on hand for the award presentation. Jordan said, “the Coop’s planned education and awareness project will be a good boost for the ag economy in our county.”

According to area sheep farmer and Coop board member Karin Kennedy, “This grant award will help the Coop to strengthen the fiber industry of not only eastern New York State, but also fiber farms in western Vt., Conn., and Mass. that are expected to be served by the Coop’s programs.”

In addition, the funds will be used to promote fiber farming in the region and to develop a greater public understanding of the industry, Kennedy said.

As part of the new initiative, the Coop is partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension to plan and conduct on-farm workshops at locations across the region. The sessions will demonstrate management practices that are expected to lead to improved fleece quality and higher returns for farmers.

Mary Jeanne Packer, Coop President and owner of Battenkill Fibers Carding and Spinning Mill, a facility that processes locally-grown fleece into yarn, will be helping to coordinate the workshops. Packer says, “We are hoping that the first session will take place still this year - in November or December, after the fiber festival season wraps-up.”

The Coop expects to partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension to plan and promote the workshops. Thomas Gallagher, a Cornell Cooperative Extension agent specializing in sheep and

other fiber producing animals, says, “It has been many years since an educational program has been held in Eastern New York on producing and marketing top quality fiber. This grant will provide the funding needed to help fiber producers increase profitability on their farms.”

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Editor’s note: Photo of check presentation available as jpg.

Cutline: (from left) Assemblyman Tony Jordan joins sheep farmers Liam and Karin Kennedy and Battenkill Fibers owner Mary Jeanne Packer as Christopher Trusso and Rella Moag Getty from Farm Credit East present a Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement grant award check to the Southern Adirondack Fiber Producers Cooperative during the Washington County Fair.

Photo by Lubna Dabbagh.