



## FALL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY SUMMER FOR FIBER SHOWS, 4-H AND FFA FAIRS, GROWING LAMBS AND A TIME TO THINK OF WHAT TO DO WITH THIS NEXT CROP OF WOOL AND FIBER FROM SHEARING TIME. IT WON'T BE LONG NOW TIL THERE WILL BE HUMMING SHEARS IN THE BARN, FLEECES LAID OUT ON THE SKIRTING TABLES AND PICKING OUT THE BEST FLEECES FOR ROVING, YARNS, BATTS AND LOVELY GIFT IDEAS.

THIS SUMMER THE ILLINOIS GREEN PASTURES FIBER CO-OP HAS HAD BOOTHS IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT FIBER SHOWS. WE ALSO ATTENDED A COUPLE OF EVENTS THAT WERE FOR EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC. TWO OF THE LARGER SHOWS WE WENT TO WERE CANTIGNY FINE ARTS FESTIVAL IN WHEATON AND THE MIDWEST FIBER AND FOLK FAIR AT CRYSTAL LAKE.

### CANTIGNY FIBER ARTS FAIR

CANTIGNY WAS JUNE 20 AND 21 AND IT POURED RAIN THE DAY BEFORE THE SHOW. THERE WAS WATER EVERYWHERE WITH LOTS OF MUD! WE SHARED BOOTH SPACE WITH ESTHER'S PLACE. THE ATTENDANCE WAS DOWN DUE TO WEATHER AND SALES WERE NOT AS GOOD AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED. THE BOOTH SPACE WAS KIND OF CRAMPED. THANKS GO TO CONNIE GUSTAFSON, SANDY SCHRADER, MIKE AND ALDA BEHM, SUZY BEGGIN, JUDY MAIERHOFER AND D.K. FOR SETTING UP THE BOOTH AND WORKING DURING THE EVENT.



Booth at Cantigny

## **MIDWEST FIBER & FOLK ART FAIR**

THE WEATHER WAS EXCELLENT DURING THE MIDWEST FIBER & FOLK ART FAIR IN CRYSTAL LAKE. WE HAD A NICE BOOTH OUTSIDE IN A TENT WITH LOTS OF TRAFFIC AND CUSTOMERS. WE HAD LOTS OF INTEREST IN OUR BOOTH AND SALES WERE VERY GOOD. WE HAD MORE SUCCESS THIS YEAR BEING OUTSIDE AND IN A BIGGER BOOTH WITH MORE SPACE. THE VOLUNTEERS THAT WORKED THE SHOW WERE SANDY SCHRADER, TRACY AND STEVE RIDDLE, CAROL NELSON, SUZY BEGGIN, CONNIE GUSTAFSON, JUDY MAIERHOFER AND DEB ROCK.



### **Booth at Midwest Fiber Fair**

WHILE THE MIDWEST FIBER SHOW WAS GOING ON THE BOARD ATTENDED A TRAINING SESSION ABOUT CO-OPS, STRUCTURES OF NON-PROFIT GROUPS AND HOW TO RUN THEM. IT WAS INFORMATIVE AND A GREAT LEARNING TOOL FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AFTER THE TRAINING THE BOARD WENT OVER TO ESTHER'S PLACE BOOTH FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE.

WE FELT IT FITTING TO RECOGNIZE DONNA AND NATASHA'S EFFORTS IN HELPING TO ESTABLISH THE ILLINOIS GREEN PASTURES CO-OP TO HELP FURTHER PROMOTE ILLINOIS FIBER. DONNA AND NATASHA GENEROUSLY SPEND TIME AND EFFORT TO PROMOTE ILLINOIS FIBER AND THE ILLINOIS GREEN PASTURES CO-OP THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WANTED TO GIVE THEM SOMETHING AS A TOKEN OF THE MEMBERS APPRECIATION. WE PRESENTED BOTH DONNA Z. LEHRER AND NATASHA LEHRER WITH CERTIFICATES. THEY WERE SURPRISED AND PLEASED. WE WANT TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN PROMOTING THE CO-OP AND HELPING SELL ILLINOIS FIBER.



Steve presenting Donna and Natasha the certificates



Natasha and Donna with their certificates

## **UPCOMING SHOWS**

Oct 17<sup>th</sup>                      Bishop Hill Fiber Show

IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME AND PEOPLE TO SET THE BOOTH UP, TEAR DOWN AND ANSWER QUESTIONS AND HELP SELL PRODUCT. WE THANK ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE HELPED WITH SHOWS THIS SUMMER AND HOPE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON SOME OF YOU THAT HAVE NOT BEEN TO SHOWS THIS YEAR TO VOLUNTEER NEXT YEAR! PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOW TO HELP AT THE SHOWS.

## **INVENTORY**

WE HAVE STARTED A MONTHLY INVENTORY AT ESTHER'S PLACE. NATASHA AND DONNA ARE DOING WAY MORE THAN ANY TWO PEOPLE SHOULD, SO WE ARE HELPING OUT BY TAKING INVENTORY ONCE A MONTH FOR THE ILLINOIS GREEN PASTURE FIBER CO-OP MEMBERS. WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT EACH PRODUCER ALSO KEEP TRACK OF THE INVENTORY YOU TAKE TO ESTHER'S PLACE AND WHAT YOU HAVE IN THE TRAILER FOR SHOWS. SEE WHAT PRODUCTS ARE SELLING FOR YOU AND WHAT IS NOT SO YOU CAN BE ON TOP OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. IT WILL ALSO HELP YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR FIBER IS GETTING LOW AT ESTHER'S PLACE OR ON THE SHOW TRAILER.

WE ARE WORKING ON NEW PRODUCT TAGS. WE ARE GETTING LOW ON THE ORIGINAL ONES. ONCE WE GET THE DESIGN PUT TOGETHER WE WILL PRINT THEM AND THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM CONNIE GUSTAFSON. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THEY ARE

AVAILABLE. IF YOU NEED TAGS NOW, PLEASE CONTACT CONNIE. SHE HAS A BOX OF TAGS.

### **WEBSITE UPDATE**

WE ARE UPDATING THE WEB SITE, AND GETTING ON THE MARKETING BANDWAGON. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR PROFILE OF: FARM, FARMER AND FIBER! IT CAN BE SENT TO JULIE BARR AT THE ILLINIOS GREEN PASTURES PO BOX 111, WATERMAN, IL 60550. SEND YOUR DIGITAL PICTURES ON A CD DISC OR IN REGULAR PICTURES. PLEASE SEND BY MAIL. THE DIGITAL PICTURE SIZE WILL HAVE TO BE FULL SIZE TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE ON THE WEBSITE. TOO MANY PICTURES WILL JAM UP THE COMPUTER WITH ALL OF THE EMAIL FILES!

**THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. WHAT CONTACT INFO DO YOU WANT TO BE MADE PUBLIC ON THE WEB SITE...IE: THE PRODUCER'S MAP ON THE WEB SITE. WE WANT TO INCLUDE EVERYONE BUT NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO INCLUDE YOUR INFORMATION. WE WANT TO BE ABLE FOR CUSTOMERS TO CONTACT YOU DIRECTLY FOR YOUR PRODUCTS BUT WILL ONLY LIST YOU IF YOU LET US KNOW. THAT IS DUE TO PRIVACY ISSUES.**

WE WANT TO REPEAT THAT WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS, DAMAGE TO, OR THEFT OF PRODUCT IN OUR POSSESSION. PLEASE CHECK YOUR FARM, OR HOME POLICY TO SEE WHAT COVERAGE YOU HAVE OR IS AVAILABLE TO YOU.

### **SHOW INFORMATION**

AND AS ALWAYS... WE APPRECIATE THE ONES OF YOU THAT HAVE SHOWN UP AND ASSISTED AT THE SHOWS. WE ARE WORKING TO PROMOTE YOU AND YOUR PRODUCT AND NEED YOUR HELP, TOO!!!! YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON A LOT OF FUN AND NEW FRIENDS. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT IS SELLING AND WHAT COULD BE SELLING FOR YOU!!!! WE WANT YOUR PRODUCTS AT THE SHOWS FOR EXPOSURE TO BUYER'S, WE CANNOT SELL YOUR PRODUCT IF YOU DO NOT GET IT TO US!!!! WE DO NOT TAKE ITEMS FROM ESTHER'S PLACE INVENTORY TO GO TO A SHOW. IT NEEDS TO STAY AT THE STORE SO THEY HAVE ENOUGH PRODUCT TO SELL. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS TO FIND OUT WHERE TO TAKE OR SEND YOUR FIBER.

WE SENT EVERYONE A SCHEDULE OF WHO IS IN CHARGE OF EACH SHOW SO YOU CAN GET PRODUCT TO THEM OR IF YOU JUST CAN NOT MAKE IT THAT FAR, GET IN TOUCH WITH THE ONE CLOSEST TO YOU AND WE WILL TRY TO HELP YOU BUT WE DO NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN!!!!

## **MARKETING CLASSES**

ARE ANY OF YOU INTERESTED IN MARKETING, DYEING OR TRENDS TYPE OF CLASSES? WE ARE LOOKING INTO HAVING SOME CLASSES IF THE MEMBERS ARE INTERESTED IN COMING TO MARKETING CLASSES, DYING CLASSES ETC. PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN SET SOMETHING UP. WE WILL NEED AT LEAST 15 PEOPLE TO MAKE IT WORTH AN INSTRUCTORS TIME. THIS IS YOUR CO-OP SO PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE US DO OR HOW WE CAN HELP YOU GET MORE FOR YOUR FIBER!

ENJOY THE FALL SEASON. IT IS A WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR WITH THE BOUNTY OF HARVEST, FRIENDS AND FAMILY.