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Dr. Marie Bulgin to Speak on OPP!
Health Program Workshop With Dr. Cleon Kimberling!
WISCONSIN SHEEP INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

— The Place to be on April 9-10, 1999 —

Once again Wisconsin leads the way! In spite of some unexpected last minute scrambling (their former site has been closed) Bob Black and crew have put together another blockbuster Wisconsin Sheep Industry Conference. Mark your calendar and note new location (Oconomowoc, between Madison and Milwaukee).

Shortly after last year's conference the OPP Society called University of Idaho veterinarian and researcher, Dr. Marie Bulgin, to see if she would consider traveling to Wisconsin in '99. Her immediate response was ". . . sounds like great fun!" When the Conference Committee later accepted our offer to help sponsor Marie they expressed interest in having her present on multiple topics. Dr Bulgin's down-to-earth demeanor and brass tacks approach toward tough issues — she'll speak on Idaho's new Scrapie Program in addition to OPP — are sure to generate lively discussion.

With John's also on the list of topics, plus Dr. Cleon Kimberling leading a discussion/work session on his proposed national health program, the '99 Conference has "morphed" into a cutting edge symposium of health issues. Black says, ". . . the daily news tells us that these topics will not fade away. The rest of society is becoming paranoid about what is put in front of them at dinner. Often those fears are misplaced, but it doesn't matter. We are outgunned in the war of words unless we find a Rachel Carson on our side."

. . . WI Conference continued on next page

— OPP SOCIETY SECRETARY STEPPING DOWN —

With sadness we announce that after 7 years of holding the fort almost entirely by herself, Mary Jarvis has elected to leave her position as our Secretary/Treasurer. Most of you have been aware of Mary's health problems which began nearly two years ago. Though it may be a diagnosis by default, the current theory is that she is suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome.

Mary and her husband, Rusty, are still actively involved in raising sheep on their Groveland Farm near Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin. She has also returned to her off the farm job, now working half-time. Mare says, "So far I am able to cope but fatigue and joint and muscle pain keep me from being the way most of you remember me. I just want to devote all of my now limited energies to our sheep and to the other animals we have here. We're hoping that I will recover fully but it may take a long, long time."

The OPP Society welcomes Annette Bader, of Hope Hill Farm in western Pennsylvania, who has been appointed as Mary's successor. A former special education teacher, she bred horses and owned a boarding and training farm before purchasing her first sheep. A Society member for nearly 4 years, Annette says that she and her physician husband, Bill, "read enough about OPP to know we wanted to take all precautions." Their foundation animals came from a closed flock, and they were the 8th in Pennsylvania to enroll in the voluntary scrapie program. Annette still teaches English riding lessons and is a National Examiner for the U.S. Pony Club, traveling around the country to test upper level riders against the Pony Club standards.

While the OPP Board will miss working with Mary, the glue that's held us together for so long, we're glad that she continues to hang with us as an active member. We look forward to enjoying more of her wit and terrific sense of humor as she and Rusty settle into a less hectic lifestyle. Don't get too complacent, though, Mare. Remember — Annette knows your e-mail address!

