

# Agriculture Literacy

## Meet The Kennedys



Pictured here with one their newest lambs are Liam (13), Karin and Devlin (18) Kennedy. Together, they raise Merino, Cormo and Romney sheep but their farm started with just a few chickens and eggs.

A young Devlin earned money by selling eggs and asked permission to save up to buy something special - no, not an iPad or Xbox - a ewe! With the prize money for first place in a

competition for Devlin's first sheep, the herd and the family business grew.

They breed for quality fiber and jacket their sheep to keep the wool clean and to prevent sun bleaching. Their farm store sells products including high quality fleece, yarn and roving for spinning. They also sell lambs and Karin's watercolor landscape paintings.

**Ensign Brook Farm** was established by Karin and Eric Kennedy with their sons in 2003. The property is 202 acres on County Route 113 in Town of Easton, Washington County.



This farm is home to five rams, 45 ewes (female sheep) - 20 are bred and will lamb early this spring and, of course, chickens remain as part of the farm!

**Fun Fact:** Sheep are ruminants and have four stomachs that efficiently breakdown plant matter. Therefore, sheep manure is not heavy with nitrates and, when used as fertilizer, seeds can be planted directly into it! For more information visit their website at [www.ensignbrookfarm.com](http://www.ensignbrookfarm.com).

**Newspaper Activity:** Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about industry, or types of businesses, in your community. How many have ties to agriculture? Did you find any about sheep and wool production?