



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

April 6, 2011

Greetings!

Hope this finds everyone well and busy with spring happenings. Spring here is a tentative word. Some days warm, others snowing. The grass is turning green and we have been having plenty of rain. The early garden items are planted, cows are calving and lambing is almost finished.

This newsletter is featuring wool! Timing couldn't be better with shearing coming up for most of us. PSWGA is again co-hosting a shearing school. In the upcoming events you should find a list of wool pools or pick up places for your wool. This year, as a PSWGA member you have the opportunity to purchase Mid States Sheep Minerals at a discount. As a PSWGA member you can arrange to purchase minerals by the ton at a discounted rate. The freight is free-delivered to any of the stops that Mid States is making to pick up wool in Pennsylvania. More information is covered later in this newsletter.

With summer coming there are many upcoming PSWGA events-Keystone Classic; PSWGA Field Day, Ag Progress. We hope to see you at any or all of these events. If you could plan to help out, so much the better! There will be a PSWGA meeting on June 18, 2011 at 1PM at the Ag Arena during the Keystone Classic. Come watch the great group of junior shepherds and join us in making decisions for your association!

Joanne

ATTENTION PSWGA MEMBERS!!!!

Mid States Sheep Minerals

Mid States is offering a discount to PSWGA members for the purchase of one ton of minerals delivered to any stop that Mid States is making in Pennsylvania to pick up wool. At this time the minerals (50 pound bags) are sold for \$17 per bag (as of this writing the discounted price would be \$13.75 per bag). You must call Robert Peirano (800-841-9665) at Mid States to arrange for purchase and delivery. So take advantage of this offer. In the future it could lead to discounts of more items, such as wormers, etc. Can't use a ton yourself? Try getting together with another shepherd or two!

[PSWGA has a website. Check it out at <http://www.PAsheep.com>](http://www.PAsheep.com)

Mark the date: Next PSWGA meeting June 18, 2011 1 PM at Ag Arena during the Keystone Classic.

Sheep to Shawl: The Wool Creativity Olympics

Even watching the sheep to shawl via PCNTV's live webcast you could feel the excitement and intensity that Wednesday afternoon. The eight teams competing had their members working in unison to produce a finished shawl in record time. Up to this point the groups had practiced, made numerous trial shawls, spent hours designing and redesigning the project. All the effort would now combine to make this final competition worth their efforts. PSWGA sets the stage and organizes the event. The teams make the event come alive for the viewing public.

Each year a shearer, carder, three spinners and one weaver comprise each team and each member has his or her tasks. Focus is on quality and timeliness. Eight adult teams competed in the Sheep to Shawl. Six teams competed in the youth fleece to shawl. Placing and awards follow. More detail can be viewed at the PA Farm show site under the wool division results. I interviewed one of the teams between competitions via email. Here are their comments on the work going into a shawl. Their next event, April 6-8, uses alpaca fiber, but the process is much the same. Meet a team and their award winning fleece!

“That day we went down in Jill's basement and took a peek through bags of alpaca fiber that we might use for the competition. That sounds easy enough, but Friends thru Fiber take pride in their shawl creations. We decided on 5 alpaca fleeces that provided us with 7+ natural colors, not including blends. The next step was - everything needed to be hand spun. So, fiber was divided out and each team member had homework, spin, spin, spin. Two weeks later, we had another get together to continue spinning, sharing ideas, who will need to bring what, team outfits, etc..... and create an eye-catching thread pattern. We knew we would be using the same weaving pattern that we'd been practicing since last summer. This pattern has been unique in that we can modify where and how we place thread colors and create a one of a kind shawl. What a lucky day it was! Well, that day lasted into the evening, but I took home with me enough thread (because everyone is so good at doing their homework) to double warp the loom. Before I left Jill's house that evening we designed the placement of pattern colors, knowing how much thread we had of each precious color. To double warp the loom I needed 243 threads x 8 yards per thread. Not only did I take home all the warp threads, Julie spun and plied over 400 yards of weft thread for the demonstration shawl. That's team work! Starting last weekend, up to this morning, I double warped the loom and wove our demonstration shawl for the MAPACA upcoming competition. Friday evening I took the shawl off the loom, knotted the ends, tied the ends in bundles, and soaked it in hot water for several hours. I spun the water out, untied and straightened the fringes, blocked it, and let it dry overnight. This morning I once again straightened the fringes and cut them off at 9". That way, Jill has the option of twisting the fringes or let them hand naturally. The 9" blunt cut eliminated unraveled or bushy looking ends. This afternoon I took the demonstration shawl over to Jill, and she smiled and said she liked it. Yeah!”

-Michelle

Friends Thru Fiber: Franklin County's STS Finest



Friends Thru Fiber Team members: L to R- Julie Shindle, Joyce Mellott, DanDailey, Jill Mellott, Darcy Maier, Michelle Lushball. Franklin County, PA, placed 4th in 2011 competition. They created the top selling Susquehanna River themed shawl for the auction. All costumes were also handmade.



Another talented team's efforts are documented on the Fort Freeland Flickers' Blog which can be found at <http://linkingthelocks.blogspot.com/>

Sheep to Shawl: Farm Show Results

- 1-Dream Weavers, Turbotville, PA , Champion Team
- 2-Treadlers Thru Time, Lancaster, PA, Reserve Champion Team, Shearer's Award, Spinner's Group Award,
- 3- Fort Freeland Flickers, Turbotville, PA,
- 4- Friends Thru Fiber, Waynesboro, PA, Teams' Choice, Best Fleece Award
- 5-Time Warp, Milton, PA , Weaver's Award

Youth Fleece to Shawl

- 1-Treading Lambs and a Ram, Lancaster, PA, Champion Team, Weaver's Award, Best Fleece Award
- 2- Surfin' Ewe S.A., Harrisburg, PA, Reserve Champion Team
- 3- Bountiful Bobbins, East Berlin, PA, Spinner's Group Award
- 4- Warrior Run Weavers, Turbotville, PA
- 5- 4-H Wooly Workers of Lebanon County, Lebanon, PA, Teams' Choice Award
- 6- Sugar Valley Shepherds, Loganton, PA

Bob Calvert's Talents at the Pennsylvania Farm Show: Judging Fleeces

What goes into grading a fleece? What is a good fleece? Are you thinking ahead as you look over the flock? Do you have a fleece to keep for the competition? In light of the fleece evaluation results and the current higher prices obtainable for wool it might be good to hear from someone with expertise in the fiber area. Bob Calvert has many years of experience in PA fiber evaluation. I called him to ask for a newsletter contribution so we all would know a bit more.

In response to your questions about my grading/judging wool – how did it happen? I would say that I was fortunate to get a lot of practical experience in growing up with a variety of breeds of sheep. Sheep have always been a part of my life as my parents had a fairly large flock of sheep. The sheep were mainly Merino in my early years – probably about 100 Merino wethers included in the flock. A Horned Dorset ram (before Polled Dorsets existed) was used on some of the Merino ewes to get a good group of Dorset Merino Cross ewes – a really good commercial ewe. These were usually bred to Shropshire or Suffolk rams. 4-H brought in other breeds to the farm as my brother Tom had Suffolks and I had Shropshires , Merinos, Cheviots plus at certain times Targhee, Corriedale, Hampshire, Horned & Polled Dorsets, Columbia & Southdown. Needless to say I had exposure to several different breeds of sheep in my early years plus did some shearing.

The other fortunate detail was that there were a lot of good livestock Extension agents that I was able/ had the opportunity to work with/gain information from at that time. John Gapen, Greene County Agent, graded and Judged sheep and wool for many years and was a good source of educational help. Ben Morgan and Frank Kruezburger, Penn State Extension Sheep Specialists, did a lot of my College and early Extension career education on wool grading as they were in charge or helped in lining up personel to Grade wool at the various wool Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers' Association APRIL 2011

pools (there were probably 15 to 20 pools at that time – 9 or 10 in W. PA). I was able to work with them as well as other experienced Extension Agents such as Bill Brown, Ed Woods, Bill Kelly, Bill King, John Gapen, Tom King, and Les Burdette at the pools and learn the grading process.

What I look for when grading wool – length of staple, strength of the staple, fineness/crimp/fiber diameter, purity/freedom from black fibers and or kemp, vegetable matter/foreign matter, brightness, and uniformity of grade.

The grades we use at our wool pools are:

- Fine Staple
- ½ Staple
- Fine & ½ Clothing
- 3/8 & ¼ Staple
- 3/8 & ¼ Clothing
- Low ¼
- Light Vegetable Matter (LVM)
- Heavy Vegetable Matter (HVM)
- Natural Color
- High Kemp/Hair Crosses

Length of fiber – In most case this needs to be 3 inches or more in order to be considered staple wool The coarser the wool the longer it needs to be to be considered staple. The shorter wool would be placed in the Clothing grade if meets other specifications.

Strength of fiber – Fiber is checked to see if it has any breaks in it. If fiber would break then it would likely be placed in the LVM grade.

Fineness/crimp/micron diameter – This is the hardest part of grading for me. Evaluating crimp/waves in the staple to determine the fineness of the fleece or the diameter of the fiber. Fine staple should be under 22 microns, ½ blood should be between 22 and 25 microns, 3/8 & ¼ grade should be between 25 and 31 microns, while low ¼ should be between 31 to 34.39 microns and common would be coarser – over 34.4 microns in diameter. Of course I cannot determine the micron by looking at the fiber but by evaluating the crimp and looking at fiber estimate the grade. Core sampling is used in large flocks and samples are sent to wool labs for testing. I have tested several of my fleeces and have usually tested a little coarser than I thought. Breed/genetics are the main determiner of fineness – Dorset, Hampshire, Shropshire, Suffolk, Columbia, Corriedale, Oxford, Montadale, Cheviot, Southdown, are probably going to grade 3/8 & 1/4 with some being in the low ¼ grade. A few Southdown, Polypay & Corriedale may get into the ½ blood category. Merino would be mainly fine while Rambouillet would be usually fine or ½.

Purity/black fibers – A lot of the black faced breeds will have some black hair in the fleece which usually moves the wool/fleece into the LVM grade. Some/a few of the white faced sheep may have a lot of white hair in the fleece and would be moved to the LVM grade or if excess amounts would move to the Kempy grade. However the High Kemp grade is almost all hair sheep crosses which isn't wanted by any of our wool buyers.

Foreign and or vegetable matter – This is almost all due to poor management/care of the wool during the year and/or during the shearing process and /or the storage of the wool. Burrs, hay, straw in the wool , baler twine, poly twine, manure– these are reasons for moving wool into the LVM or HVM grade.

“ Pride in marketing your crop” We can all do better in this area.

Uniformity – The fleece is not the same fiber diameter throughout the fleece but we look for the fleece with the most uniformity. This is used more in Judging than in grading wool at the wool pool except in extremely variable fleeces.

I have covered a little on most of the items I look for in grading and judging wool except maybe the brightness, softness/feel of the fleece. The fleece should have a soft, alive feel to it. Some fleeces will have a dry, harsh feel to it which is undesirable. Many of these will have weak fibers.

Hopefully this is of value to you and if you are showing fleeces or marketing to spinner type market – I would urge you to skirt your fleeces – removing the belly wool and britch wool at least. If bringing wool to the wool pool, unless there is really dirty belly wool or dung lock/manure on butt – probably not a lot of benefit to heavy skirting fleeces. As of now the wool market outlook is good but a few months to go before marketing – *take care of your wool crop. -Bob*

Fiber Performance at the Farm Show Shearer Appreciation

I have to confess my favorite day of farming is shearing. I started in the sheep business as a knitter gone overboard at the age of 40, when a friend’s dad offered me a group of three middle aged Border Cheviots complete with the hand shears, Oster clippers and extra blades. I quickly learned that I did not have the skills to handle a sheep and the blades, but I found someone nearby who could put the wool into my hands -off the sheep. His name is Dan. He had sheared since his adolescence on his family farm and is still shearing for us nearly 50 years later. In addition to the shepherd, the shearer lets the lambing business continue. Next time you think of all that goes into a productive sheep operation, take time to appreciate the shearer.

PA 2011 FARM SHOW Fleece Results Section 4: Auction Fleeces

Corriedale Ewe Fleece

1-Corriedale- Roger Bowman, Winterside Farm, Lenhartsville, PA, BERKS

2-Corriedale- Roger Bowman, Winterside Farm, Lenhartsville, PA, BERKS

Dorset and Cheviot Ram Fleece

1-Charles Orr, Jr, Misty Acres Farm, Jackson Center, PA, MERCER

Dorset and Cheviot Ewe Fleece

1-Charles Orr, Jr, Misty Acres Farm, Jackson Center, PA, MERCER

2-Roger Bowman, Winterside Farm, Lenhartsville, PA, BERKS

Hampshire-Suffolk, Shropshire-Southdown Ewe Fleece

1-Charles Orr, Jr, Misty Acres Farm, Jackson Center, PA, MERCER

2-Rebecca Rishel, RJR Hampshires, Seven Valleys, PA YORK

All Other Breeds Fleece

1-John and Kate Bostek, Roclans, Fairfield, PA, ADAMS

2-John and Kate Bostek, Roclans, Fairfield, PA, ADAMS

Champion Breed Fleece

Charles Orr, Jr, Misty Acres Farm, Jackson Center, PA, MERCER

Reserve Champion Breed Fleece

Charles Orr, Jr, Misty Acres Farm, Jackson Center, PA, MERCER

Section 7: Champions Wool Specials

Grand Champion Non Auction Fleece

John and Kate Bostek, Roclans, Fairfield, PA, ADAMS

Reserve Grand Champion Non Auction Fleece

John and Kate Bostek, Roclans, Fairfield, PA, ADAMS

Grand Champion Auction Fleece

Charles Orr, Jr, Misty Acres Farm, Jackson Center, PA, MERCER

Reserve Grand Champion Auction Fleece

Christine Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

Section 6: Auction Fleece Grade Natural Color

Solid Black, Brown/Grey Fleece (60's and finer)

1-Rebecca Rishel, RJR Hampshires, Seven Valleys, PA YORK

2-Christine Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

Solid Black, Brown/Grey Fleece (50's and coarser)

1-Christine Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

2-Terrence Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

3- Blair Steele, Mercer, PA , MERCER

4-Andrew Kiess, Linden, PA LYCOMING

5-Andrew Kiess, Linden, PA LYCOMING

Nonsolid Colored Fleeces (60's and finer)

1-Christine Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

Nonsolid Colored Fleeces (50's and coarser)

1-Terrence Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

2-Myrtle Chamberlain, Dallas, PA, LUZERNE

3-Christine Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

4-Myrtle Chamberlain, Dallas, PA, LUZERNE

Champion Natural Colored Fleece

Christine Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

Reserve Champion Natural Colored Fleece

Terrence Flanagan, Sheepberry Farms, Halifax, PA, DAUPHIN

CCC-633EZ LDP Form --What is this?

Having been raising sheep for a bit over a decade, I can honestly say that the LDP and wool marketing are two of the most baffling parts of the business. If you want something from your wool besides a great sweater, exactly how does one get some profit from it? I asked for help from persons with more knowledge than myself in this area. Here are a few of the resources they recommended: wool pools and LDPs. The first is a common collection of wool, graded and non-graded arranged by an individual or cooperating group, extension or county wool growers' group. The second is a US Government program that one can access through the Farm Service Agency in your area. This information was kindly provided by Cynthia Garland here in Franklin County. If any of you have any other experience or ideas on getting a profit from your wool, please let me know and I'll be glad to share it with the membership!

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Farm Service Agency Franklin County FSA
 185 Franklin Farm Lane, Suite 202
 Chambersburg, PA 17202
 (717) 264-8074

Wool and Mohair Loan Deficiency Payment Program

Overview

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 provides 2008 through 2012 crop year loan deficiency payments (LDP's) for wool and mohair to eligible producers who produce and shear wool and mohair from live sheep and goats. The LDP program is also available to eligible producers of nongraded wool in the form of unshorn pelts. LDP's are payments made to producers who, although eligible to obtain a CCC loan, agree to forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible wool, mohair, or unshorn pelt.

LDP's are administered by Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Eligibility

To be eligible for a LDP, a producer must:

- Meet the definition of an eligible producer;
- Comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions;
- Produce and shear eligible wool and mohair or produce an unshorn pelt from a slaughtered lamb for unshorn pelts;
- Have beneficial interest in the commodity;
- Own, other than through a security interest mortgage or lien, the sheep and goats that produce the wool and mohair for a period of not less than 30 calendar days before shearing, or in the case of unshorn lambs, 30 days prior to slaughter of the lamb;
- For unshorn pelts only, sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use.

To be eligible for a LDP, the wool and mohair must:

- Have been produced and sheared by the eligible producer;
- Be in existence and in storable condition;
- Be of merchantable quality suitable for loan;
- Be produced and shorn from live animals of domestic origin in the United States.

To be eligible for an unshorn pelt LDP, the unshorn pelt must:

- Have been produced by an eligible producer;
- Be produced from a live unshorn lamb of domestic origin in the United States at the time beneficial interest was lost.

Beneficial Interest

To be eligible for a LDP, eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the applicable commodity. Beneficial interest must be retained by a producer from shearing or other specified term for special commodities continuously through the date LDP is requested.

A producer is considered to have beneficial interest in a commodity if all of the following remain with the producer: 1) title to the commodity 2) risk of loss and 3) control of the commodity. When beneficial interest in the commodity is lost by the producer, the commodity remains ineligible for loan or LDP even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Producers are required to provide acceptable production evidence, which indicates the date beneficial interest was lost with the LDP request.

Final Loan Availability Date

The final loan availability date to request a marketing assistance loan or LDP for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts is January 31 of the year following the year in which the commodity is sheared or the unshorn lamb is slaughtered.

LDP Rates

The effective LDP rate is the difference between the loan rate and the national posted price given for the given week.

Unshorn pelt payments will be based on the effective LDP rate for ungraded wool for the week in which beneficial interest was lost. LDP's for unshorn pelts will be based on a standard weight of 6.865 pounds per pelt.

LDP Rates are available on the FSA Web site at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Core Tests

To obtain an LDP at the graded rate, the wool must be core tested by a CCC-approved testing facility to measure through laboratory analysis fiber diameter (micron) and yield. A list of CCC-approved testing facilities for graded wool can be obtained from any USDA Service Center.

For More Information

Further information on this and other FSA programs is available from the local USDA Service Centers.

Wool Pool information for this spring and summer:

To date the following wool pool information has been submitted. If you know of any further info, please submit it when available.

Northeast: contact Fred Hemmerly 570-869-2692

Pick Ups: June 21st, 2011, Tuesday-**Roulette**-Johnson Quarry maintenance shed 11A.M., **Whitneyville**-Fairgrounds 2PM, **Troy**- Troy Intersection of Route 6 E. and Route 14 N 5P.M.

Pick Ups: June 22nd, 2011, Wednesday- **Laceyville**-Vern' Feeds 7A.M, **Limestoneville**-NOON on Route 254 1/8 mile north of I 80 at exit 215.

Fred and Tammy Hemmerly have WOOL BAGS FOR SALE.

Central:

June 6 & 7 - Lawrence County Wool Pool - Lawrence County Fairgrounds , New Castle, Pa. (Rte 108)

North Central:

Tuesday, June 14, 2011 around 2PM at the Penn State Sheep Center, with Mid-State for anyone that is interested in shipping wool, contact Stanley at 614-837-9665.

West:

Somerset County Wool Pool: Tuesday June 14th, 2011, 9-11 AM, Growmark FS, 1694 North Center Ave, Somerset, PA 15501 , wool buyer: Mid States Wool Growers, Contact Jim Sheeder 814-233-4949.

Northwest:

June 13 & 14 - Mercer County Wool Pool - Stoneboro Fairgrounds, Stoneboro, Pa. (Rte 62)

Southwest:

June 20 & 21 - Washington County Wool Pool - Washington Fairgrounds

South East:

Saturday June 25th: **Berks County** wool pool at the **Reading Fairgrounds** from 8 AM until 12 Noon. Shepherds from surrounding counties are welcome to participate in the pool. We plan to pool through Groenewold Fur and Wool, Forreston, Illinois. We do not have a price yet because it will depend on the current market price at the time of the pool. All wool needs to be put into burlap bags. **Bags are available at the pool.** There will be a small handling charge due at the time of wool delivery.

Friday, June 24th: **Chester County** 4-H building (at Rt. 322) from 3 PM until 7 PM. The details are the same as the pool at Reading.

Contacts for the pools are: Morgan Firestine Berks County Extension (Livestock) 610-378-1327

Cheryl Fairbairn Chester County Extension 610-696-3500

Roger Bowman 610-562-4875 or Rnmsbowman@aol.com

Randy Stitzel 610-944-9247

PSWGA Logo Contest

We are currently looking for a logo for the Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Association. Please use your creative talents to design a logo that can be utilized on the newsletter, stationary, posters, web-site, apparel, and much more! For ease of use, we request the submission to be electronic. You may submit more than one entry per person. Judging will be done at this year's annual meeting/symposium on October 22nd. Members will vote for the logos and the winner will receive a 1 Year Family Membership and a Gift Certificate to Mid-States Wool Growers. The submission must be emailed to psushepherd@yahoo.com by September 17, 2011. Questions can be directed to Laurie at 814-355-4215 or pushshepherd@yahoo.com. Good luck! - Joanne

KEYSTONE CLASSIC COMING SOON: GET YOUR ENTRIES SUBMITTED!

Plans are underway for this year's Keystone Classic Jr Show to be held June 17-19, 2011 at the Snider Ag arena on the campus of Penn State University. As in previous year's, the Classic is open to all youth under the age of 21 who would like to exhibit their breeding sheep, market lambs, or market goats. In addition, to the shows, showmanship and skillathon contests will be held along with other educational activities. Last year, over 265 entries were shown throughout the weekend and we look forward to increasing our numbers even further this year. As always we will be looking for help with set-up and clean-up as well as help throughout the Classic weekend. If you or someone you know would like to help for a day or perhaps just a few hours, please contact Stacy Taylor at stctylr@aol.com. Entry information and forms will be available on the PSWGA website, www.pasheep.org after May 1st.

June 18, 2011: PSWGA Meeting at the Keystone Classic Ag Arena, University Park



2011 PA Performance Tested Ram Lamb & Meat Goat Buck Test

The Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center is accepting nominations for Ram Lambs and Meat Goat Bucks for the annual performance test and sale. Rams and Bucks born between September 1, 2010 and February 28, 2011 are eligible for test. Rams and Bucks are grown out at the Livestock Evaluation Center from April 6, 2011 through sale- August 6, 2011. Rams and Bucks are evaluated on average daily gain, lifetime weight per day of age, muscling and fat thickness. Eligible Rams and Bucks are included in a sale following the testing period. All breeds accepted for test. For information on the test, rules or nomination paperwork, please contact Greg Hubbard, PDA Livestock Evaluation Center, 814-238-2527, www.livestockevaluationcenter.com

- **Coming in future editions of SHEEP & Wool NEWS:**
- WOOL pool: the process, the pick up, the profit? Where does the wool go? Mapping its progress from your field to the finished garment.
- WHAT to do with the wool? Value-added or just pile it up and burn it?
- Public Appearances: How do you handle questions and comments when meeting the public? What do you say as a live-stock raiser in a confusing whorl of media coverage? How do you practice keeping your cool under stress?
- What is the ideal flock size to meet your needs and goals and land available? How do you decide?
- **If you'd like to contribute to these topics, please contact the newsletter editor via phone or email.**

For more information about Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers please check out our web site- PASheep.com. or contact Kathy Soder at info@kbarkfarm.com. Please contribute ideas and topics you'd like to see covered in future newsletters and the website that would be of interest to the membership.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS:

!!!!!!PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES as soon as possible. Numerous newsletters are not getting through to members dues to failed email delivery!!!!!!

Next PSWGA meeting at the PA Livestock Evaluation Center June 18, 2011, Keystone Classic Ag Arena.

LOOKING FORWARD:

April Events:

April 15-17, 2011 as per ASI Bulletin, T & E Farms, Ebensburg, Pa. "Earn as you Learn" Shearing and Wool Handling School, Intermediate and Advanced Shearers only
Students will get paid per sheep sheared while getting detailed training from instructor Doug Rathke. Instruction includes sharpening, comb experting and various shearing methods for breed variations.
Registration: \$350 Contact: Doug Rathke, 320-587-6094, lambshop@hutchtel.net

April 30 - 6:30 PM - Western PA Sheep, Lamb, & Meat Goat sale - Mercer County 4-H Park, Mercer, PA
Entries due by March 22 5:00 PM - NW PA. Sheep & Wool Growers - Shepherds Auction (used & new equipment)

May Events:

SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL:

May 3- 10:00 AM - PA Wool Sale - Mercer Extension Office

May 6 & 7 - Sheep Shearing School - George Wherry Farm , Scenery Hill, Pa. (Washington County)
George Wherry Farm 724-554-1443, May 6-7, 2011. Topics include: shears and shearing, cutters and combs, setting up the equipment, movements to shear.

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, May 7-8, 2011.

Waynesburg Sheep and Fiber Festival, May 21-22, 2011.

JUNE Events:

Keystone Classic Junior Show, University Park, PA June 17-19, 2011

PSWGA Meeting

June 23 - 6:30 PM - Shepherds' Night - Mercer County Extension Center - Tureen Dinner featuring Lamb & Chevon, Selection of Mercer County Lamb & Wool Queen

Various WOOL POOLS and Pickups. Please see information above for dates, locations and times.

JULY Events:

July 23 - W. PA Showcase - Junior Market Lamb Show - Mercer County 4-H Park

AUGUST EVENTS:

PA Performance Tested Ram Lamb & Boer Billie Sale and Invitational Female Sale, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA:
August 6, 2011

PA Sheep Field Day, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA: August 6, 2011

Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA: August 16-18, 2011

SEPTEMBER Events:

Endless Mountain Fiber Festival: September 10-11, 2011, 10-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday, Harford Fair Grounds, Exit 217 of PA I81. Call Tammy Hemmerly, Silvara Valley Farm for information. 570-869-2692. also available information at <http://www.pafiberfestival.com>.

September 24 - 10 AM - 3 PM - NW. PA Sheep & Wool - Family Field Day - Waterford Fairgrounds, Waterford, PA

OCTOBER Events:

Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Harrisburg, PA: October 1-9, 2011

PA Shepherd's Symposium / PSWGA Annual Meeting / 2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen Contest, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA: October 22, 2011

PA Beginning Shepherd's Workshop, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA: October 23, 2011

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