



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

February 1, 2011

Greetings!

At this time I am inside enjoying the warmth of the pellet stove while I try to catch up on some paperwork. We began the day with everything outside being a sheet of ice. Although it thawed during mid day, there is promise of more ice and snow starting tonight through Thursday morning. I spoke with my brother (who lives in Florida) and was complaining about another upcoming storm and he proceeded to ask me if I would rather live in the hurricane/tornado belt or perhaps on one of the cliffs of California where your whole house can be washed away in a mud slide. His point was well taken. I do love Pennsylvania any time of the year. While at the National Sheep Industry meeting I was again happy to be from Pennsylvania. We discussed many issues involving farming in different areas of the United States. I guess you get used to dealing with the issues you grew up with or have farmed with for many years. I moved to Fulton County almost 12 years ago. After I moved here I was told (thank you Tom) that Fulton County is the desert of Pennsylvania. It may be, but at least I do not have to purchase water rights. I do not have to worry where I will pasture my sheep depending on where the Big Horn Sheep or the wild horses are grazing. And I have access to the best livestock markets in the country! I have just weaned my late fall lambs and am preparing for my next group of ewes due to lamb starting the beginning of March. Prices in our industry are at record highs!

PSWGA is increasing its membership. PSWGA is involved in all aspects of the industry, from purebred producers to feeders to wool producers. Our membership is getting more involved in our activities. I cannot tell you how thankful I am to all those who were able to volunteer and man the Sheep Learning Station. The Farm Show Staff asked each species to have a learning station to help educate the general public about our industry. I spent several days there and was extremely pleased and surprised at the interest that our booth generated. We had an educational booth complete with two sheep. Thank you Brittany Truax for providing these very cooperative girls. Being former 4-H projects these ewes were extremely friendly, allowing people to actually touch the sheep and feel their wool. We had spinners and weavers demonstrating their skills. We had recipes and nutritional information. We were even able to provide information to those who wanted to know more about sheep and their environmental impact. I believe we helped educate the public about the positives of the sheep industry. THANK YOU!

On February 26, 2011 we will hold a PSWGA meeting at the Livestock Evaluation Center in Pennsylvania Furnace. It will begin at 10 AM and last through lunch. Agenda items for this meeting are listed later in this newsletter. I urge all of you to attend. It will be the planning and budgeting session for 2011. This is the time to voice your opinion. Lunch will be provided. (If you know you are able to attend, please drop me an e-mail so I can make sure we have enough food. But if you find you are able to attend at the last minute-Please come! We'll make do!)

I hope that you all stay safe and warm throughout the rest of the winter.

Joanne

Mark the date: Next PSWGA meeting at the PA Livestock Evaluation Center February 26, 2011.

Meet the 2011 PA Lamb & Wool Queen, Miss Kara Kingsley!

At a young age, I realized that my genetic code contained a trait that most, normal people, do not have. A love and passion for sheep binds itself to the very fibers of my being.

Sheep have always been present in my life. With George Hunter as a grandfather, I had no choice, but to raise sheep. Just as “football” exemplifies the essence of the Manning family; “sheep”, in my family, defines a rich tradition and honorable label.

I will never forget the first time I won grand champion lamb at my 4-H round up. Beaming, I ran to my grandfather to show off my crisp banner. Since then, I have earned the title of Grand Champion three more times, and Reserve Champion twice. With each shake of the judge’s hand, comes the deep sense of family pride. When the judge walks away, I look to the corner. Grandpa always sits with a twinkling, proud smile. The look on his face and knowing that I am continuing the Hunter family tradition is worth more than any amount to money I receive from selling my lamb.

Although winning top honors at fair seems like the accomplishment, I have actually gained much more behind the scenes. The hard work, elbow grease, and dedication that serve as requirements to succeed gives me so much more than a trophy alone. Starting with my lead line lambs when I was three, I gained insight into what responsibility was all about. Caring for my sheep over the years has molded me into the well rounded young adult I am today.

4-H and the Lamb and Wool Industry have given so much to me. At this point of my young adult life, I would like to "pay it forward" by promoting the sheep and wool industry. I feel that my generation needs to become more aware about how much society relies on agriculture, and particularly the sheep industry. Through my current reign as Mercer County Lamb and Wool Queen I found that the number of people who have not tried eating lamb is astonishingly high. My goal is to set up booths at state wide functions to give people the opportunity to try lamb. Through my schools nutrition club, I already have plans to serve lamb at their meetings, and at other community events.

As my time in 4-H dwindles, I look forward to continuing my involvement in agriculture and the sheep industry. Next fall, I plan to attend college to become an agricultural lawyer. Through this, I hope to aid, support, and propel sheep farmers into a successful future. - Kara

Next issue - The letter from our Princess, Anna Stoner

**Pennsylvania Farm Show: We talked to hundreds ...
and many more talked to the sheep!**

The Pennsylvania Farm Show was held January 8-15th, 2011. The booth assembled to represent shepherds across the state and educate the public, a Sheep Learning Station, received a notable number of visitors. The sheep, a white Oxford named Mia and her companion, a blue/grey Hampshire/Suffolk cross named Lucy, were a major attraction in their corner pen. Thanks to Suzette and Brittany Truax for providing them as “spokes-ladies” for the week. Also much thanks goes to the people from near and far who helped make this display a success. As Joanne mentioned in her letter, we had many positive interactions and inquiries during the week.

REMINDER! The PSWGA now has a web presence at <http://www.pasheep.com>. Please refer here to find current links, and topics of interest. You can also send ideas to the board via this website.

Sheep Performance at the Farm Show

Walking through the sheep pens on the opening weekend I was amazed at the crowd of living wool producers before me. I was also impressed with some of the nicely conditioned bodies on the slick shorn groups in pens. What hit me the most however, was the incredible amount of work that I know goes into getting animals to the show, holding steadily with body, mind and spirit through all the week’s events and hours, and keeping focused despite the teeming crowds flowing through the aisles. Then last week, pulling up the records on classes held, entry numbers and all the record keeping for the various breeds, it made me appreciate the hard work of shepherds, recorders, ring attendants, judges, parents and supporting family members. To assemble this kind of event is amazing. To do it for decades is truly a marvel. So to all of you who make it happen in the sheep world-Job Well Done! Below is a brief synopsis of the results of various classes.

For a look at the full record, log on to <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us/results.aspx>, enter the year and class, breed and county to get the specific results you’d like to see. Wool review is coming next issue.

Junior Breeding Sheep

Champion Hampshire Ram - Lytle 353 RR NNP AI, exhibited by Alyssa Lytle, Chester, Chester Co

Reserve Champion Hampshire Ram - Crego L/S 42, exhibited by Andrew Keiss, Linden, Lycoming

Champion Hampshire Ewe - Lytle 348 QR NNP, exhibited by Emily Lytle, Lincoln University, Chester

Reserve Champion Hampshire Ewe - Lytle 370 NNP, exhibited by Alyssa Lytle, Chester, Chester

Champion Southdown Ram - WSFS 0074ETRR, exhibited by Jade Wilson, Titusville, Crawford

Reserve Champion Southdown Ram - WSFS 9038ETRR, exhibited by Derek Wilson, Titusville, Crawford

Champion Suffolk Ram - MacCauley 2280, exhibited by Christopher MacCauley, Atglen, Chester

Reserve Champion Suffolk Ram - MacCauley 2325, exhibited by Kyle MacCauley, Atglen, Chester.

Champion Suffolk Ewe - MacCauley 2314, exhibited by Christopher MacCauley, Atglen, Chester

.Reserve Champion Suffolk Ewe - MacCauley 2243, exhibited by Christopher MacCauley, Atglen, Chester .

Champion Cheviot Ram - Rising Sun 0-17, exhibited by Shelby Rarick, Fleetwood, Berks

Champion Cheviot Ewe - Eaton TJA 10036, exhibited by Kyle MacCauley, Atglen, Chester

Reserve Champion Cheviot Ewe - Rising Sun 9-29, exhibited by Chelsea Geisinger, Centerport, Berks

Champion Dorset Ram - Pine Ridge 0089 ET, exhibited by Olivia Waggoner, East Berlin, York

Reserve Champion Dorset Ram - Pine Ridge 0105, exhibited by Olivia Waggoner, East Berlin, York

Champion Dorset Ewe - Reme Ewe Farms 0525, exhibited by Olivia Waggoner, East Berlin, York

Reserve Champion Dorset Ewe - Reme Ewe Farms 0516, exhibited by Olivia Waggoner, East Berlin, York

Champion Shropshire Ram - Bollinger 1001, exhibited by Austin Fittery, Manheim, Lancaster

Champion Shropshire Ewe - exhibited by Joe Zimmerman, Oberholtzer Horned Dorsets, Reinholds, Lancaster

Reserve Champion Shropshire Ewe - 107, exhibited by Ben Shughart, Carlisle, Cumberland .

Champion All Other Breeds Meat Ram - Triple T 1001, exhibited by Brittany Truax, Hustontown, Fulton

Reserve Champion AOB Meat Ram - Hollystone Farm 10-353, exhibited by Hollystone Farm, Paoli, Chester .

Champion AOB Meat Ewe - K Barkley 0948, exhibited by Kyle MacCauley, Atglen, Chester.

Reserve Champion AOB Meat Ewe - exhibited by Brittany Truax, Hustontown, Fulton

Champion Corriedale Ram - Frank, exhibited by Ben Marquis, Maplewood Farm Corriedales, Danboro, Bucks

Reserve Champion Corriedale Ram - Lovell 10123, exhibited by Andrew Kiess, Linden, Lycoming

Champion Corriedale Ewe - Marq 0151, exhibited by Ben Marquis, Maplewood Farm Corriedales, Danboro, Bucks .

Reserve Champion Corriedale Ewe - Sophia RDB 1027, exhibited by Sarah Vamvakias, Hide-A-Way Farm, Boyertown, Berks

Champion Natural Colored Ram - OKRFFS 101B, exhibited by Andrew Keiss, Linden, Lycoming

Champion Natural Colored Ewe - "Dof's Darling" Lovell 1081, exhibited by Andrew Keiss, Linden, Lycoming

Reserve Champion Natural Colored Ewe - "Trick or Treat" Lovell 09126, exhibited by Andrew Keiss, Linden, Lycoming

Champion AOB Wool Ram - Ramses PA5183-0014, exhibited by Elizabeth Tonkin, Newville, Cumberland

Reserve Champion AOB Wool Ram - Moses PA 5183-0010, exhibited by Elizabeth Tonkin, Newville, Cumberland Co.

Champion AOB Wool Ewe - Amazing Grace, exhibited by Elizabeth Tonkin, Newville, Cumberland Co.

Breeding Sheep

Open Show results:

Cheviot Champion Ram: Erdenheim Farm, Lafayette Hill, Montgomery Co.

Cheviot Champion Ewe: Kyle MacCauley, Atglen, Chester Co.

Corriedale Champion Ram: Ruth Hartman, Limekiln, Berks Co.

Corriedale Champion Ewe: Ruth Hartman, Limekiln, Berks Co.

Dorset Champion Ram: Olivia Waggoner, East Berlin, Adams Co.

Dorset Champion Ewe: Olivia Waggoner, East Berlin, Adams Co.

Hampshire Champion Ram: Alyssa Lytle, Lincoln University, Chester Co.

Hampshire Champion Ewe: Emily Lytle, Lincoln University, Chester Co.

Merino Champion Ram: Bob Calvert, Mercer, Mercer Co.

Merino Champion Ewe: Bob Calvert, Mercer, Mercer Co.

Montadale Champion Ram: Tisha Ebling, Lebanon, Lebanon Co.

Montadale Champion Ewe: Tisha Ebling, Lebanon, Lebanon Co.

Natural Colored Champion Ram: Andrew Keiss, Linden, Lycoming Co.

Natural Colored Champion Ewe: Karen Fleishell, Carlisle, Cumberland Co.

Oxford Champion Ram: Karen Fleishell, Carlisle, Cumberland Co.

Oxford Champion Ewe: Brittany Truax, Hustontown, Fulton Co.

Shropshire Champion Ram: Derek Bollinger, Manheim, Lancaster Co.

Shropshire Champion Ewe: Derek Bollinger, Manheim, Lancaster Co.

Southdown Champion Ram: Jade Wilson, Titusville, Crawford Co.

Southdown Champion Ewe: Derek Wilson, Titusville, Crawford Co.

Suffolk Champion Ram: Chris MacCauley, Atglen, Chester Co.

Suffolk Champion Ewe: Chris MacCauley, Atglen, Chester Co.

AOB Meat Champion Ram: Mindy Irvine, West Sunbury, Butler Co.

All Other Breed Meat Champion Ewe: Mindy Irvine, West Sunbury, Butler Co.

AOB Wool Champion Ram: Ramona Butt, New Park, York Co.

All Other Breeds Wool Champion Ewe: John and Kate Bostek, Fairfield, Adams Co.

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

*Comments from RENO:***American Sheep Industry Meeting-January 21 & 22, 2011**

Last month Laurie Hubbard (Seedstock representative to the American Lamb Board) and I (representing PSWGA) attended the National Sheep Industry meeting in Nevada. It was another information packed few days. The atmosphere was upbeat due to the prices we are currently receiving for our lambs and cull ewes. The main discussion was how to increase numbers of breeding sheep and therefore lambs for market. At this time, (according to census papers) there are: 64,000 sheep operations with 1-99 sheep; 3750 operations with 100-499 sheep; 973 operations with 500-4999 sheep; and 57 operations with more than 5000 sheep. As numbers decrease we loose the infrastructure (wool mills, slaughter facilities, educational/research facilities, etc) that we will not likely be able to revive. A movement "Rebuild the Sheep Industry" was planned. A proposal of how to do this is called the 2+2+2 rebuild. This proposal asks that each producer increase the size of their operation by 2 ewes per operation or 2 ewes per 100 by 2014; increase the average birthrate per ewe to 2 lambs per year and increase the harvested lamb crop by 2 percent. More information will follow in future ASI newsletters.

Other issues that came up were that the superwash machine is in place and will be in use beginning in February. Six months of use has already been purchased by private companies. For those of you that are not aware.- A superwash machine was purchased and set up in the United States for companies to have their wool processed as superwash wool. This will allow us to continue to provide US wool and process it in accordance with our military needs. The military is the largest purchaser of US wool.

Livestock Protection Dogs-There are issues in the west and east that arise from having these dogs in with your sheep. In the west, where many flocks are grazed on public lands that are also accessed by the general public for recreation, there have been problems with dogs getting aggressive with bicyclers and hikers near or among the sheep. In the east, there have been issues with neighboring dogs and people who travel through private lands where these sheep and dogs are pastured. A committee was formed as a proactive way of dealing with these items. A list of recommendations for guard dog owners was formed as well as signs to be placed at trailheads and other public areas educating the public about how to act when near sheep or these dogs. New signs are being made for private land owners.

We were given a report about carcass instrument evaluation (as opposed to human grading). This system is already being used in the beef and pork industry. The research was done with 1200 carcasses-both grain fed and grass fed. The end result is to provide a better and more accurate/consistent grading system.

We were delighted to have speakers from both New Zealand and Australia give reports on the sheep industries in their countries. They face many of the same challenges as we do. The number one pest in Australia-rabbits! You ask what that has to do with sheep? Rabbits are land predators, using resources that sheep and cattle use. For over a year we have heard about the devastating droughts. Now, some areas are experiencing tremendous rains and flooding.

We were again amazed at the talent of our youth at the National Make It With Wool Competition. Their imagination and sewing skills are beyond what you can find in most clothing stores! Pennsylvania was well represented by Stephanie and Gabrielle Augustine.

These are some of the highlights of this year's meeting. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me. Next year the meeting will be on January 28th in Scottsdale Arizona.

Joanne

A Few Notes on the Ohio Buckeye Shepherds' Symposium from Milo Gevin

On the weekend of December 11, 2010, Milo Gevin and Bill Adams traveled to Wooster, Ohio for the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association's Buckeye Shepherds' Symposium. From Milo's point of view, he has been doing the "sheep thing" for over 26 years and is still learning. Approximately 150 people attended. One topic covered was Ethnic Marketing. Katherine Harrison, who runs a custom slaughter house in Ohio, presented at the Ohio Symposium and also spoke at the PSWGA's 2009 fall meeting. Milo recommends this meeting next year for anyone interested in seeing how the sheep practices vary in Ohio and networking with Ohio shepherds. It is well worth the trip!

February 26, 2011: Planning/Budget Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Treasurer's report

Old Business:

- Keystone Classic
- Wool Pools-Status for 2011
- Shearing Schools
- Make It With Wool-Wool Trust money
- PSWGA Field Day/Ram & Boer Test/Sale
- Ag Progress
- Symposium & Annual Meeting
- KILE/Farm Show
- Website

New Business:

- Youth Association
- Farm Learning Station

Sheep Selection for Carcass Characteristics WORKSHOP announcement

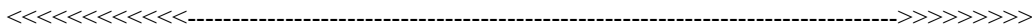
Larger loin eyes are a great bonus for consumers who want larger lamb chops, but learning to select sheep that will produce these larger lamb chops can be a challenge for sheep producers. Penn State Extension in Bedford County will be hosting a workshop that features methods for sheep selection as well as a demonstration of ultrasound measurements for carcass characteristics on February 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Bedford 4-H Center.

Dr. Andrew Meadows, U.S. certified scanner from Virginia, will do a live demonstration of scanning techniques. Melanie Barkley, Penn State Extension Educator from Bedford County, will lead a discussion of sheep selection principles. Participants will also have the opportunity to make their own estimates of carcass characteristics as part of a sheep selection exercise.

Cost for the program is \$20.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth age 18 and under. The registration fee includes speaker fees, refreshments and educational materials. Registrations are requested by February 15. For more information on the "Sheep Selection for Carcass Characteristics" workshop, contact the Penn State Extension office in Bedford County at 814.623.4800 or stop by at 120 W. John Street in Bedford. You can also reach them by email at BedfordExt@psu.edu.

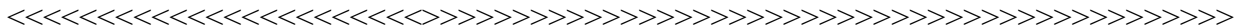
2011 PA Performance Tested Ram Lamb & Meat Goat Buck Test

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:

- LDP -What does it mean? How do you get it? What do you do with it?
- SHEEP to SHAWL: Background on the teams: What does this event do for our organization?
- WOOL pool: the process, the pick up, the profit? Where does the wool go? Mapping its progress from your field to the finished garment.
- Judging a fleece: What does it take to really have fine wool? Who decides if it's fine enough?
- Wool Grading and Classification: How does one get certification? Interview with one of our members.
- 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 livestock raiser in a confusing whorl of media coverage? How do you practice keeping your cool under stress?
- 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:**February Events:**

Friday, the 18th: Bedford 4H Center, 7PM. Contact Melanie Barkley, cost \$20 adult, \$5 youth
814-623-4800, BedfordExt@psu.edu

Next PSWGA meeting at the PA Livestock Evaluation Center February 26, 2011, 10AM to lunch.

LOOKING FORWARD:**March Events:**

N.Y. Wool Handling School, Saturday, March 12, noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, contact Mary, ASI, 303-771-3500, ext. 46. Reg. fee \$25, Cornell Sheep Farm, Dryden, NY, Ron Cole, ihrcol@comcast.net.

April Events:

Mercer Co. Sheep and Wool Growers' Western Sheep, Lamb and Goat Sale, April 30, 2011.

May Events:

SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL: George Wherry Farm 724-554-1443, May 6-7, 2011.

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

Mercer County Sheep & Wool Growers' Shepherd Night and Queen contest

Various WOOL POOLS and Pickups

JULY Events:

Mercer County Sheep & Wool Growers Junior Market Lamb Show

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

PA Sheep and Wool Grower Family field Day

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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