



# PENNSYLVANIA SHEEP & WOOL NEWS

PSWGA NEWSLETTER- DECEMBER 2011

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 1, 2011

Greetings!

How is everyone? Things here are busy as usual. With Thanksgiving behind us and whitetail season here our house is full of hunters. Several with very happy faces and several still getting up at all hours of the morning!

The PSWGA Annual Symposium and Workshop are behind us for another year. Both went well. I won't say without a hitch but I believe we all learned a lot. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event. Each year we are fortunate to have a few people organize, set up, decorate and make the event happen. This year many more people were put into the workforce as Saturday's events were more hands on than planned! Please take a look further into this newsletter for a summary and pictures.

The annual Make It with Wool Competition was held in October. Thanks to the hard work of Jodell Antrim there was a good turnout. The winners will be representing us at the National competition in Phoenix. Phoenix Arizona is the site for the annual American Sheep Industry meetings. The Hubbards will be representing Pennsylvania this year. Laurie will be finishing her term as the seedstock representative to the American Lamb Board and Greg will be our representative for the ASI board. If you have any issues or concerns; please pass them on to Greg.

Congratulations to Sara Grube of Somerset County-Our new Lamb & Wool Queen. Remember to contact Sara or Laurie Hubbard if you have events in your part of the State that you would like her to attend. Thanks Laurie for keeping this part of PSWGA going!

I would like to congratulate our new PSWGA Outstanding Youth, Brittany Truax. She is jumping into her role with both feet. She has again volunteered to bring a couple of ewes for our educational booth at Farm Show. Congratulations are also extended to Tom Calvert, our new PSWGA Secretary; and Fred Hemmerly, our new PSWGA Vice President! I am looking forward to working with these two gentlemen in their new official roles! For those who have held an office before, this does not let you off the hook for another election. Numerous years ago Tom was President when I was Treasurer.

At this time I would like to thank the two outgoing officers-Milo Gevin served this past term as Vice President; Jan Motter has served as Secretary for as many years as I can remember. We will miss them in their official capacity but I am sure both will remain active in the Association.

The 2012 PA Farm Show is around the corner. A great many of our members have roles at the Farm Show, from showing sheep to running events. PSWGA has taken on the added responsibility of an educational booth about our industry. It requires someone to man it for the entire time Farm Show is open to the public. Tammy Hemmerly will be calling all (or you can save her a call and let her know when you are available [silvervalleyfarm@earthlink.net](mailto:silvervalleyfarm@earthlink.net) or 570-869-2692) of us to see when you can put in a few hours to help educate the public by answering their questions and teaching some tidbits of information about the sheep industry. It is amazingly enriching. Last year I took my spinning wheel and thought that I would at least have something to do to keep from getting bored. Well, the spinning was just another avenue to have people stop and chat. Their questions are interesting and thought provoking.

For those preparing for winter lambing-GOOD LUCK! I sincerely hope that this is the lambing that comes with very few problems.

As I close I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday season!

Best Wishes!

Joanne

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



### **2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen Contest Results**

The 2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen Contest was held on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Samuel E. Hayes Jr. PA Livestock Evaluation Center, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. Contestants were evaluated by a panel of judges on a written essay, personal interview, and their public speaking skills.

Sarah Grube of Somerset County was chosen as the 2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen. Sarah is the 17 year old daughter of Dennis and Kathy Grube of Meyersdale, PA, where she currently attends Meyersdale Area High School and is planning to attend college to study secondary math education. Sarah is active in National Honor Society, Marching and Concert Band, SADD Club, FFA, Student Council, is a student tutor, has been the Lions Club Student of the Month, and is a statistician for the Boy's Basketball Team. She has been showing market lambs as part of the Buffalo Creek 4-H Club for the last five years. Sarah is currently the 2011 Somerset County Lamb and Wool Queen.

The PA Lamb & Wool Queen program is sponsored by the PA Sheep & Wool Growers Association. The PA Lamb & Wool Royal Court will be asked to attend several industry related events throughout their reign. If you are interested in having royalty attend an event, please contact Laurie Hubbard at 814-355-4215 to schedule

### **2011 PA Lamb & Wool Royal Court...THANK EWE!**

The 2011 PA Lamb & Wool Queen, Kara Kingsley and 2011 PA Lamb & Wool Princess, Anna Stoner, will finish out their reign on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We would like to thank the young ladies and their families for helping us to promote the sheep industry here in Pennsylvania. We wish you both success in your future endeavors and hope that you'll remain part of our industry as your lives move forward. Thank Ewe and Good Luck!



## 2011 PA Make It With Wool Contest

### Somerset County, PA

*(1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners: L-R Made for Others by Joan Klein, Joan Klein, Junior Angela Villanueva, Senior Gabrielle Augustine, Preteen Libby Bryner, Adult Sharon Donahoe, and Made for others by Sharon Donahoe)*

The first place Junior and Senior contestants as well as the Adult (outfit only) are eligible to compete at the National Make It With Wool Contest to be held in January 2012 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Best of luck to all!

The 2011 PA Make It With Wool Contest was held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 in Somerset County. There were a total of 24 contestants in the following categories: 9 – Preteen, 6 – Juniors, 2 – Seniors, 5 – Adults, and 2 - Made for Others.

The results are:

**Preteens** - Libby Bryner, Fayette - 1st, Rebecca Schaefer, Beaver - 2nd, Sadie Knopsnyder, Fayette - 3rd

**Juniors** - Angela Villanueva, Lebanon - 1st, Stephanie Augustine, Carbon - 2nd

**Seniors** - Gabrielle Augustine, Carbon - 1st & 2nd Place

**Adults** - Sharon Donahoe, Bedford - 1st, Katherine Augustine, Carbon - 2nd

**Made for Others** - Tie for 1st Place - Sharon Donahoe and Joan Klein

### Mentoring Program

As part of ASI's "2 +2+2 Equals Rebuild" program we are developing a mentoring program for new producers. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact Joanne Evans. Stayed tuned for more information on the program in future newsletters.

Joanne Evans (717-485-0532 or [genetic@innernet.net](mailto:genetic@innernet.net))

## PA's Outstanding Young Shepherd



Congratulations to Brittany Truax who looks to enjoy her jacket while working with her flock. The group appreciates young people who may carry on the work to promote shepherding into this century. We look forward to her assistance at the PA Farm Show and thank her for the time required to apply for the program. Our recipient for the 2011 PSWGA Outstanding Youth Award is Brittany Truax. Brittany has been actively engaged in the sheep industry for nine years. Her family farm-Triple T Farm-is located in Fulton County. She is the daughter of Lee & Suzette Truax.

Brittany is an eighth grader and a member of the Chuck Wagon 4-H club. She is involved in all aspects of the sheep industry. She owns Purebred Oxfords and is intimately involved in the daily decisions required to maintain a quality purebred flock. She shows her breeding stock as well as her market lambs at various shows and fairs throughout the eastern half of the country.

Besides her sheep, Brittany interests include cattle, working stock dogs and scholastic sports.

**All Things Wool:** (Right) Items displayed at the Beginning Shepherds' Workshop in October.

*Additional photos from the Annual Sheep and Wool Symposium available on our website.*

## PA Sheep & Wool Growers 2011 Shepherd's Symposium & Beginning Shepherd's Workshop



The 2011 symposium was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Livestock Evaluation Center. This year's topics pertained to reproductive management of our sheep. Our featured speaker for the program was Glen Erickson of New Frontier Genetics located in Wellsville, Utah. The morning was spent reviewing the reproduction systems of the Ram and Ewe. Different management techniques were presented to enhance the reproductive efficiency of our flock.

A great meal featuring American Lamb re-energized us for the afternoon session. During the lunch hour we were able to listen to the candidates for the 2012 Lamb & Wool Queen contest. We were also fortunate to have Angela Villanueva, Junior winner of the PA Make It With Wool Competition, model her winning outfit. After time visiting with fellow shepherds we went back to the classroom.

The afternoon session was hands on: Glen collected a ram and through modern technology we were able to project a slide showing the semen onto a screen where we learned about the morphology of semen-number of individual sperm, motility, etc. Ewes that were supplied for the artificial insemination portion of the program had been previously CIDR'd and injected with a hormone to bring them into estrus so that they would be receptive for breeding. The ewes used were Dorsets and were inseminated with semen shipped in from Australia. Two donor ewes had been given Follicle Stimulating Hormones to bring up numerous ova and then they were injected with prostaglandin and bred a week prior to recovering the embryos. On Saturday we were witness to the surgical recovery of the resulting embryos from the ovaries. Dr. Evans searched for the microscopic embryos and put them into dishes under a microscope allowing us to see what very young sheep babies look like! Recipient ewes were given hormone shots to bring the ewes into estrus so that the timing and environment in their uteri would be similar to the donor ewes. The embryos were then transferred into these ewes. Since it is too early to ultrasound as of the writing of this newsletter; pregnancy results from Saturdays procedures will follow in a future newsletter.



*Collaged photos: Embryo transplanting procedure. Upper left to lower right: 1-The sperm donor ram. 2-Donated Dorset sperm. 3-Cleaning the surgical area. 4-inspection. 5-Lamb embryos. 6-Looking inside the ewe.*

Saturday finished with the crowning of our new Lamb & Wool Queen, Sara Grube! Silent auction items were chalked off to their respective bidders. The last total I heard for the silent auction was \$650 dollars. There was time for socializing and refreshments while door prizes were given out. The last item for the night was the PSWGA Annual Meeting. The meeting was well attended and many items for the upcoming year were decided. We should have a copy of the minutes in a future newsletter. From there we packed up everything and headed to the Penn State Sheep barns to set

up for Sunday's Beginning Shepherd Workshop. Sunday's program was "Everything Wool". The knowledge of participants ranged from beginning shepherd to seasoned wool growers allowing an interactive discussion which everyone could participate and learn from. The workshop began with basic wool handling-from handling your sheep for the best wool you can produce (example-remove burrs from your fields), preparation for shearing, shearing equipment, skirting fleeces, storage and evaluation of your clip. We then moved on to different types of wool/ and the breeds of sheep that produce those fleeces. We checked out wool samples and full fleeces to see the differences in wool that graded from coarse to very fine. At the same time we were able to see how these different wools were used in different products-blankets, socks, wool insulation, etc. Marketing,

sales and good discussions finished up the day. I think we all went away with information helpful for improving the quality of our fleeces.

It was a busy weekend but one that everyone should have benefitted from. -Joanne

### **PSWGA Logo Contest**

This issue is debuting our new logo for the Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Association. Thanks to Laurie Hubbard for adding her design skills to the repertoire of her service to the organization!

**Please contribute ideas and topics you'd like to see covered in future newsletters and the website.**

### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS:**

**LOOKING FORWARD:** PA Farm Show January 7th-14th, 2012. Jr Sheep Show Sunday, 8th, Jr Market goat show Saturday 7th, 2012. Sheep to shawl and Fleece to shawl Wednesday January 11th. Sheep show is Friday and Saturday Jan 13th and 14th. Fleece Auction January 11th.

Full Schedule available at: <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us/page/schedule.aspx>

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