



PENNSYLVANIA SHEEP & WOOL NEWS

PSWGA NEWSLETTER- December 2012

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 5, 2012

Greetings!

Wow! I never expected to be doing barn chores in December without even a sweatshirt! Great for me but no so good for the livestock that have a good start on their winter coats. I am almost finished with late fall lambing (or really early spring if you choose). It is always exciting to see a new crop of lambs.

Looking back over the last few months you will find that PSWGA held their symposium, beginners' workshop, annual meeting. This year we hosted Dr. David Pugh as our speaker for the day. Dr. Pugh is the author of a well known reference book called "Sheep & Goat Medicine". He kept us all awake and energized with his animated presentation. Covering many subjects pertaining to sheep herd health; I believe that everyone benefited from this day. Sunday brought the beginners workshop in which attendees were able to fill out their required manure management forms. These forms are required to be kept for all livestock operations and with the help of Rob Meinen we were able to understand and begin to fill out our forms. The annual meeting began the planning for the 2013 year as well as re-electing Greg Hubbard as treasurer and electing a new President-Melanie Barkley. The 2013 PSWGA Calendar was revealed and given to those in attendance. If you see Laurie Hubbard, please thank her for her work in gathering the pictures and putting together the entire calendar! The PSWGA directory has also been printed and is out for use. I would like to thank Denise Orr for all of her hard work in putting this project together! If you haven't received one yet, please pick one up while you are working at the sheep educational booth at Farm Show.

At the October meeting we were privileged to listen to the contestants for the PSWGA Lamb & Wool Queen. There were five contestants, all of which presented informative talks. The ideas that these girls have could only enhance our sheep programs. Thanks so much to our outgoing queen, Sarah Grube for all her time and effort this past year. Good luck to our new queen- Ashley Shaw. You can find more information about this year's contest in the newsletter.

Farm show is early this year. For many youth exhibiting market animals they will need to be in Harrisburg on January 3rd! The show opens to the public on the 5th. We are again hosting the Sheep educational booth. Please give up an hour or two of your time to help educate the public about our industry. It may not seem important to you but remember that the more the public knows the less misconceptions they should have. This helps us as farmers put forth a positive image. It shows them that we do care about our animals and how they are managed. Ask those who have helped in previous years; it is a very educational and rewarding experience on our part also. Tammy Hemmerly is looking to line up help in manning the booth. Please call or e-mail her with the time that you can volunteer (silvervalleyfarm@earthlink.net or 570-869-2692).

San Antonio, Texas is the location of this year's American Sheep Industry meeting. What a great place to spend a few days to get away from the January winter. You can learn about the sheep industry on a national level; concerns that affect our industry; policy making and it is a great time to meet fellow shepherds from around the Country! Greg Hubbard will be the PSWGA delegate. If you have any questions, comments or concerns that you want taken to the meeting please contact Greg. Or you could go yourself! Information can be found at the ASI website- www.sheepusa.org.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as PSWGA's President. It was an honor to represent Pennsylvania's sheep industry these past four years. Although it is a lot of work; it also has a lot of rewards. I wish Melanie good luck and hope that she enjoys it as much as I have.

Happy Holidays!

Joanne

FARM SHOW

NOTE: If anyone would like to work a few hours at the FARM SHOW, the help would be appreciated.

We are looking for help with the sheep educational booth at Farm Show. Please pitch in and give a couple of hours of your time. I know you may not have planned to go to farm show but if we could all show up for a few hours it would really help.

Please contact me (genetic@innernet.net) or Tammy Hemmerly, 570-869-2692, (silveravalleyfarm@earthlink.net) and let us know when you can help. I will send a parking pass to help anyone who volunteers some time for the booth! Any youth who works at least two hours can contact me and I will sign off on their volunteer hours. **Don't hesitate to take along a sheep/wool project that you may want to share with the public-ex: knitting, spinning, pictures of sheep things you do at home.....**

Thanks, Joanne and Tammy

Sheep Shearing Videos Now Available from Penn State Extension – Start Farming

CONTACT:

Tianna DuPont, Extension Educator

Penn State Extension

(610) 746-1970

FAX: (610) 746-1973

Email Address: tdupont@psu.edu

Producers interested in learning to shear their own sheep, or those who may just need a refresher to brush up on their skills, can now look to the Web for help on shearing sheep. Finding someone to shear your sheep is becoming more difficult and expensive every year. We hope these videos will get you on a good track to doing your own shearing.

Penn State Extension's Start Farming team realized there is a relative lack of good sheep shearing information when class after class has filled and folks keep asking for more. Mike Fournier, Penn State Extension Educator in Bucks County, teaches Introduction to Sheep Management and Sheep Shearing schools each year in southeastern Pennsylvania. In the past three years, 77 aspiring or beginning producers have taken the courses – most planning to join the almost 3,800 sheep farms in Pennsylvania.

The team created two videos, one explaining the tools needed to shear sheep and preparing and caring for the shears, and one explaining the six positions to shear a sheep. To view the videos, please visit the Start Farming team's website at extension.psu.edu/start-farming and click on the "Sheep" tab on the left side of the page.

About Start Farming:

In 2009 Penn State Extension launched the Start Farming program in response to increased interest in farm start-up from community members. The program's goal is to enhance the success of beginning farmers by providing information and hands-on training in production, marketing, financial management, as well as land and other resource acquisition.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce

Make It With Wool CONTEST

The 2012 Make It With Wool Contest was held the same weekend as the PSWGA Shepherd's Symposium. Here are the successful and creative ladies from PA.



Pennsylvania Make It With Wool Competition 2012

The 2012 Pennsylvania Make It With Wool Competition was held in Somerset, PA, on October 20, 2012. The Junior & Senior winners will travel in January to San Antonio, TX, to compete in the 2013 National Make It With Wool Competition.

A tradition for over 60 years, the Pennsylvania Make It With Wool Competition was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Somerset, Pennsylvania. Twenty-four contestants participated in this year's state competition. The contest encourages creativity and teaches life skills to those who participate.

Winners: Gabrielle Augustine, Angela Villanueva, Sharon Donahoe, Kristie Corle, and Elizabeth Bruner (in front)

The nationwide competition was started to encourage the use of wool fibers in making handmade garments. The purpose is to focus attention on the beauty and versatility of wool. It can be used for sewing, knitting, and crocheting from casual to formal attire. Wool regulates the body's temperature, absorbs moisture, and is resistant to flames.

In Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, American Sheep Industry Women, and American Sheep Industry Association sponsor the contest. The generosity of

numerous other businesses and individuals also contribute to the success of the competition every year by providing gifts for contestants and prizes for winners of the contest.

Contestants may participate in the contest by constructing a garment made of at least 60% wool, either by sewing, crocheting, knitting, or weaving. There are five divisions in which to compete: Pre-Teen (ages 12 and under); Junior (ages 13-16); Senior (ages 17-24); Adult (ages 25 and older); and Made for Others (any age), where the garment is made for someone other than the person who did the constructing.

In the pre-teen division, Elizabeth Bruner of Indiana County took First place with her wool jumper made with Easy to Sew Simplicity pattern. Second place was Rebecca Schaefer of Beaver County in a poncho, vest, and slacks outfit. The junior division runner-up was Katherine Porter of Bradford County with her Tommy Hilfiger inspired ensemble. Angela Villanueva of Lebanon County will represent Pennsylvania again this year in the junior division at the national contest. Angela won with her knit dress of naturally variegated gray rescue sheep fleece. Gabrielle Augustine of Carbon County was the winner in the senior division with her fashionable grey Badgley Mischka pencil dress and variegated purple shawl. Gabrielle didn't stop there; she created her second entry that was the runner-up. This outfit was a three piece ensemble. She will also travel again to the national contest. Sharon Donahoe of Bedford County placed first in the adult division wearing a three piece ensemble that featured a fully-lined, Chanel Jacket, Anne Klein fully-lined, loose-fitting pants, and a Badgley Mischka blouse. There was a 3-way tie for second place – Kathy Augustine of Carbon County, Vernyce Dannells of Philadelphia County, and Joan Klein of Beaver County.

In the Made for Others, there was another 3-way tie for second place – Joan Klein of Beaver County made an outfit for her 95 year old mother Emilie Wells, Rebecca Schaefer of Beaver County made a matching outfit for her younger sister Jordan, and Kathy Adams of Indiana County made an outfit for her Godson – John Clark Bruner. Sharon Donahoe of Bedford County was first place winner with an ice fishing outfit she made for her daughter Kristie Corle.

Other contestants from around the state of PA were as follows:

Preteens: Sombre Carleton, Leah Flick, & Maggie Townsend-Beaver County, Hannah Scannell-Lebanon County and Jade Wilson-Crawford County

Junior: Arianna Carleton, Rediet Schaefer, & Emily Young-Beaver County, Stephanie Augustine-Carbon County, Katelyn Young-Adams County

State winners in the junior and senior divisions are eligible to go on to the national competition which will be held in San Antonio, TX, in January. The adult winner will submit a video, picture, and their garment to be judged. If chosen as the top state winner, she will also travel to the national competition in San Antonio.

Jodell Antram and Virginia Rhoads are the directors of the state event. Peggy Black, Marie Kieffer, and Kathy Twigg served as judge with the assistance of Bert Antram keeping time for the competition. MC for the fashion show was Virginia Rhoads.

Inquiries about the contest can be made to Jodell Antram, 762 Antram Road, Somerset, PA 15501 or e-mail [HYPER-LINK "mailto:daveandjodell@comcast.net"](mailto:daveandjodell@comcast.net) daveandjodell@comcast.net .

2013 PA Scrapie Calendars

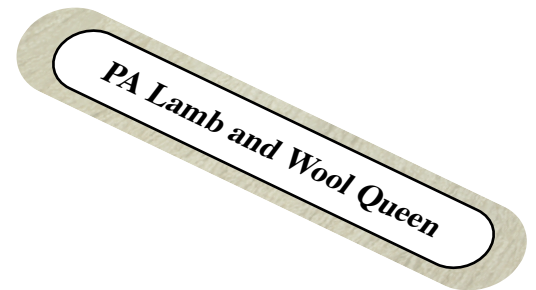
If you have not already received your 2013 PA Scrapie Calendar, you should receive your copy in the mail by early January 2013. Our scrapie education money was used to produce 2013 calendars. Please be patient as I try to get them in the mail to the membership! You'll notice that most of the ethnic holidays for marketing lamb are noted as well as PSWGA and related agricultural events. There was one change since printing and that is the date of Ag Progress Days in August. It has been moved up one week, so mark your calendars... APD will be on August 13-15, 2013. Hope everyone enjoys!

Laurie Hubbard

NEXT PSWGA MEETING

The next PSWGA meeting is to be held at the Livestock Evaluation Center, PA Furnace on February 23, 2013 at 10AM. This will be the final planning and budget meeting for the 2013 year. Everyone welcome!

2012 Lamb and Wool Queen Updates



2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen

Thank Ewe to our 2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen, Sarah Grube of Somerset County. She has worked hard this past year traveling about the Commonwealth to support the sheep industry as well as to educate the public about sheep. We thank Queen Sarah and her family for their dedication to our industry. Best wishes!

2013 Lamb and Wool Queen Updates



Pennsylvania's Lamb and Wool Queen Contest Results

The 2013 PA Lamb & Wool Queen Contest was held on Saturday, October 22nd at the Samuel E. Hayes Jr. PA Livestock Evaluation Center, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. There were five contestants from across the state vying for the title. Contestants were evaluated by a panel of judges on a written essay, personal interview, and their public speaking skills.

(L-R: Jessie Ross; Catrina Bollinger, 2013 PA Lamb & Wool Princess; Ashley Shaw, 2013 PA Lamb & Wool Queen; Kaitlyn Jones; Chelsea Bilyeu)

Ashley Shaw was chosen as the 2013 PA Lamb & Wool Queen. Ashley is the 20 year old daughter of Matthew and Angela Shaw of Harrisburg, PA. She is a junior in college with a dual enrollment at Harrisburg Area Community College and Delaware Valley College, studying Agribusiness. Having six Leicester Longwool sheep, her true passion is in the fiber industry. While Ashley enjoys showing her sheep, spinning their wool, knitting, and weaving; she has accomplished it all through 4-H. She is a member of PhiThetaKappa and volunteers for 4-H, Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association, Dance Assistant for the Children's Wheelchair Dance Program, and with the PA Rabbit Breeders Association.

Catrina Bollinger was selected as the 2013 PA Lamb & Wool Princess. Catrina is the 17 year old daughter of Craig and Crystal Bollinger of Mifflinburg, PA. She attends Mifflinburg Area Senior High School where she serves as a Student Advisor in the Mifflinburg FFA Chapter. Catrina has a Miniature Babydoll Southdown and is President of both the

Cowan Ag 4-H Club and Valley Riders 4-H Club. She is active in Key Club, Church Youth Group, donates to Walk on Foundation, collects eye glasses for reuse, Mifflinburg Boro recycling, AQHA member, and APHA member.

Jessie Ross, Kaitlyn Jones, and Chelsea Bilyeu also competed for the title. Jessie Ross is the 21 year old daughter of John and Tammy Ross of Connellsville, PA. Kaitlyn Jones is the 18 year old daughter of Kenneth and Kimberly Jones of Wind Ridge, PA. Chelsea Bilyeu is the 16 year old daughter of Brad and Amy Bilyeu of State College, PA. The panel of judges had said, "We were very impressed with the passion that all the young ladies had for the sheep industry. They were all highly qualified contestants."

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 814-932-9000 to schedule.

Extension Home Study Courses Available

Are you looking for more information to help make your livestock enterprise more profitable? Penn State Extension will be offering three Extension Home Study Courses this winter, beginning February 6, 2013. The purpose of the courses is to teach producers about production principles for beef, sheep or meat goats that will help their operations become more profitable. All three courses are available through the postal service or through email/internet.

The sheep and meat goat courses have six lessons, the beef course has seven, that are to be completed weekly. The lesson topics include basic production information, selection principles (beef), nutrition, health, reproduction, marketing, and financial issues. Each lesson has information about the topic and a worksheet for producers to complete and mail or email back to the Extension Office for comments. Producers can also submit any questions that they would like answered.

Melanie Barkley, Bedford County Extension Agent, said "Each course is a great way for producers to learn new information without having to rearrange their schedule to accommodate a meeting. Producers can study the lessons at their leisure in their own home." The worksheet questions are designed to ask producers about their current operation so that comments from the instructor are tailored to participants' individual situations to help them improve their management skills. According to Barkley, over 1,500 producers from across the country have taken one or more of the three courses.

Comments following the courses show that information contained in the courses is very beneficial and that producers are able to adapt the information for use in their own operations. For more details or to sign up for a course, go to <http://agsci.psu.edu/livestock-course> or call 877-489-1398. To speak to one of the instructors you can contact the Penn State Extension Office in Bedford County at (814) 623-4800 or in Fulton County at (717) 485-4111. Cost for the course is \$45.00 if taking over email/internet and \$80.00 if taking through the postal service. Deadline for registration is January 28, 2013.

Upcoming Events And Important Dates:

Pa. Farm Show – Harrisburg – January 5 – 12, 2013 Please call Tammy Hemmerly if you can help!

Extension Home Study Course deadline January 28th, 2013.

Next PSWGA meeting - Livestock Evaluation Center, PA Furnace, February 23, 2013 at 10AM. This will be the final planning and budget meeting for the 2013 year. **Everyone welcome!**

PSWGA Officers/Contacts:

President: (as of 2013)

Melanie Barkley, Maple Hollow Farm, 9027 Hyndman Rd, Manns Choice, PA 15550
814-623-5756, maplehollow@embarqmail.com

Outgoing President (until 12/31/12): Joanne Evans, Visions Stock Farm, 3466 Breezy Point Road, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

717-485-0532, genetic@innernet.net

Vice President:

Fred Hemmerly, Silvara Valley Farm, 7758 Route 367, Laceyville, PA 18623

570-869-2692: silvaravalleyfarm@earthlink.net

Secretary:

Tom Calvert, Shoher Farm, 137 Archery Road, Berlin, PA 15530

814-267-3771: lcalvert44@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Greg Hubbard, 1535 Purdue Mountain Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823

814-355-4215, psushepherd@yahoo.com

Webmaster:

Kathy Soder, K Bar K Farm, 5867 Eberle Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, 814-669-1374, info@kbarkfarm.com

Newsletter editor:

Linda Singley, Bearlin Acres Farm, 180 Mt. Ash Lane, Shippensburg, PA 17257, 717-530-3605,

bearlin@pa.net,

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