

PENNSYLVANIA SHEEP & WOOL NEWS

PSWGA NEWSLETTER- JULY 2011



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

JULY 23, 2011

Greetings!

Hello, from the "desert of Pennsylvania." Fulton County is in full fledged drought conditions. The pastures are brown and dry and the corn looks like pineapple plants without any ears. Why again do we choose to farm? Some days I do wonder, but most of the time I wouldn't trade farming for any other way of life.

Due to surgery I was unable to make it to this year's Keystone Classic. From some of the competitors I hear it was a lot of fun! Thanks again Stacy! Our next event is the PA Ram & Boer Sale and the PSWGA Field day on Saturday, August 6, 2011. There will be a program about Flock Record Keeping-in particular the National Sheep Improvement Program. A Skill A Thon will be held to test your knowledge of sheep production. Let's see if some of the kids can challenge the knowledge of the adults! There will be an informational meeting for PSWGA prior to the sale. We are one of the few states still holding a ram test. I hope that you can join us to see the results of the test, maybe even buy a tested ram!

Later in August (16,17,18) we will again hold our annual fundraiser as a food booth at Ag Progress Days. We are looking for volunteers to help cover six hour shifts. We sell lamb sandwiches, lamb Gyros and water. We need your help! No prior experience necessary! Please let Laurie or I know what day you can be there.

In October we will be holding our annual symposium and beginner's workshop. The brochure for the workshop is included in this newsletter. At the PSWGA annual meeting we will be holding elections for Vice-President and Secretary. Please consider giving your time and energy for either of these positions. If you just cannot do that, try to think of someone who would fit the bill. These positions require that the person be a member of PSWGA but not necessarily a longtime member. New people bring fresh ideas and we would welcome anyone that would be interested. Please be open minded if someone from the nomination committee calls you. Or be proactive and contact me with any nominations!

Here's hoping that the rest of your summer goes well. Enjoy some time with your family and try to relax even for a short time!

Joanne

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

We are in desperate need of help to work the food booth at Ag Progress Days on Tuesday, August 16, Wednesday, August 17, and Thursday, August 18. We are asking for a six hour commitment this year, but will gladly take as much of your time as you can offer. If you can help at all during the event, please contact either Joanne Evans at 717-485-0532 or Laurie Hubbard at 814-355-4215. This is our only fund raiser for the association and we need "Shepherd-Power" to get the job done! Hope to see you all in August at Ag Progress Days in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA!

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

Mark the date: Next informal PSWGA meeting August 6th, 2011 at the ram sale.

A Message from Our Lamb and Wool Princess

My name is Anna Stoner, and I have had a love of sheep for many years. I live next to a small sheep farm. From the time I was very young, I have loved to go down to feed the lambs. I always named the bottle fed lambs, because they would run up and lick me. I remember one lamb in particular, that my brother and I named Clover. I loved that little lamb and she was so adorable. It was my goal to own my own lamb after Clover. Six years ago, when I was old enough, I decided to join the 4-H Sheep club. I have been showing lambs through 4-H ever since.

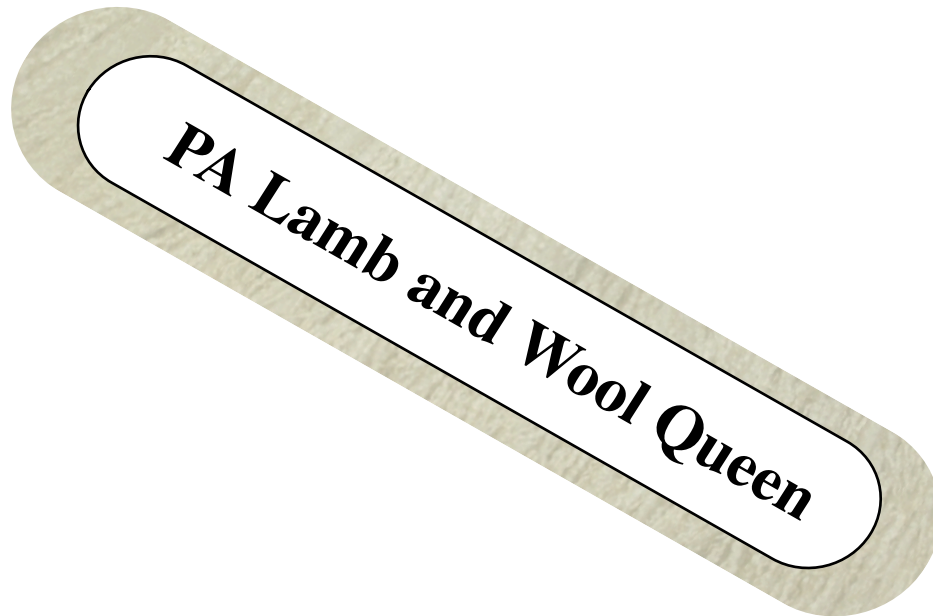
I think raising a lamb is a very rewarding experience. To start a lamb project, I always go to pick out the lamb I want to raise and show. Sometimes I raise two lambs. I think by raising only a few lambs, it is easier to bond with them and learn their personalities. One of my lambs, Eva, would follow me around her pen. It is a great experience to bond with a lamb. Most people don't get that opportunity. It is amazing how little most people know about lambs, so I find it very rewarding explaining and sharing my experiences with them. For example, there was one little girl who thought my lamb was a goat, so I got to explain all about sheep to her. I enjoy sharing my knowledge with young children, because I hope I can spread my love of lambs. I take great pleasure in showing my lambs and bringing them to the fair too. This summer at the fair, I met a lady who raises Merino lambs, and she was learning how to spin. She told me how lucky I was to be learning about lambs and wool at a young age because she was never able to. That story reminds me of how fortunate I am to have people in my life who support my lamb and wool projects.

Since I enjoy shearing my lambs and using their wool, it was a perfect fit for me to establish and coordinate the Dyeing to Knit Fiber Club in my county through 4-H. A few years ago Pam Bender wanted to start a club to teach youth to use wool and other fiber. I was very interested in the wool aspect of her idea, so I decided to help her. I became the president of this club, and I still am. As president of this club, I have taught many 4-H members to knit and felt with wool. I remember at our club's summer camp, I was teaching a young girl how to knit, but she just didn't understand. She eventually said she was left-handed, so I figured out an easier way for her to knit by adapting the pattern, and she understood. I love seeing peoples' faces when they finally understand knitting, or they complete their first project. In this club we also dye wool and spin wool. I love to spin on a drop spindle and I have made a few things using the wool I have spun. I got my first drop spindle for Christmas, when our club leader's husband made them for us. I think making things such as scarves and hats is a great way to use wool. I think utilizing wool for art purposes such as felting, is a significant art form that many people do not know about.

A good friend of mine wanted to start a knitting club at our high school for her senior project. She knew I was the president of the 4-H knitting club, so she asked me to join her club. She created a club at our school, and there are about five student members and seven teachers that attend. With this club we are knitting hats to donate to a homeless shelter. I decided that on my hat I would use my wool to felt flowers. Everyone thought they were great and now they want me to teach them how to felt.

In the future, I plan to expand my knitting and spinning skills by taking more classes. I will also continue to raise lambs and share my experiences with the community. I hope that if I become the Lamb and Wool Queen, I can continue to share my love of sheep and wool with other people and encourage young sheep raisers. I hope that I will be able to influence many people to learn about sheep and wool.

-Anna



2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen Contest

The PA Lamb & Wool Queen program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Association. The 2011 PA Lamb & Wool Queen contest will be the afternoon of Saturday, October 22, 2011 at the Samuel E. Hayes Jr. PA Livestock Evaluation Center in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. The contest consists of a written essay, personal interview, and public speaking being evaluated by a panel of judges. An additional consumer promotional display will be voted upon by the public for an award only. The contest will coincide with the annual PA Shepherd's Symposium and will conclude the day with the coronation ceremony.

This program provides our youth with communication skills, leadership rolls, and networking connections. The PA Lamb & Wool Royalty attends PSWGA sponsored events throughout the state, such as the Keystone Classic, KILE, PA Farm Show, Ag Progress Days, Farm City Days, Governor's Ball, and much more!

Contest Rules and Regulations:

Contestant must be a resident of the state of Pennsylvania

Contestant must be at least 16 years of age, but may not have passed their 22nd birthday as of January 1, 2012

Contestant must either own sheep, be from an active sheep producing farm, or have carried a 4-H or FFA sheep project in 2011

Contestants must be members in good standing with the PA Sheep & Wool Growers Association (annual family dues is \$35)

Contestants need not have competed for a county level title

Entry forms are due by October 5, 2011. To obtain an entry form, please contact Laurie Hubbard, 1535 Purdue Mountain Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823. If there are any questions, please call at 814-355-4215 or email psushepherd@yahoo.com Upon receipt of the completed entry form, a detailed informational packet will be sent out to all applicants.

2011 PA Outstanding Young Shepherd Award: Applicants' Information

The Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Association would like to honor some of the outstanding youth in their industry by sponsoring a PA Outstanding Young Shepherd Award this year. There will be a Junior (8-14) and Senior (15-21) division in which applicants must submit an entry form along with a written essay on their activities and participation in the sheep industry with a signed letter of reference. Applications must be postmarked by September 1, 2011, and winners will be announced at the annual meeting of the PA Sheep & Wool Growers on October 22, 2011. For more information or to receive an entry form, please contact Joanne Evans at 717-485-0532 or genetic@innernet.net

PA Outstanding Young Shepherd Award

Qualifications:

- Must be a member of the PA Sheep & Wool Growers Association
(Family Membership \$30./year or Keystone Classic Junior Fee \$5/family)
 - Must be a resident of Pennsylvania
 - Must be engaged in a sheep project during 2011
(4-H/FFA project, lease or own a sheep, or work on a farm with sheep)
 - Junior Division* 8-14 years old and *Senior Division* 15-21 years old (age as of January 1, 2011)
- Note: An individual may only win once in each age division.

To enter:

- Entry form along with a written essay and signed letter of reference *must be postmarked by September 1, 2011*. (Entries may not be emailed)
- Completed entries are to be mailed to:
Joanne Evans, 3466 Breezy Point Road, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
Questions: 717-485-0532 or genetic@innernet.net
- Winners will be announced at the PA Sheep & Wool Growers Annual Meeting on October 22, 2011 at the PA Livestock Evaluation Center, 6PM. Need not be present to win.
- Written Essay: No more than one typed page (1 inch margins)
 - Explain your daily activities with sheep, your enterprise and experiences
 - Explain the one thing that you excel at within the sheep industry (examples: selection, wool, meat, breeding, nutrition, marketing, etc.)
 - Describe your future plans within the sheep industry and why you deserve to represent the youth of Pennsylvania's Sheep Industry
- Letter of Reference: to be included with the entry form and essay
 - Written by a 4-H Leader, Extension Agent, FFA Advisor, or an Adult Sheep Breeder (not a parent)
 - Letter must confirm the applicants eligibility (they are actively engaged in the sheep industry)
 - Provide a personal recommendation for the applicant
 - Must be signed with a contact phone number
- Entries will be judged by a panel of PSWGA members, based on 30% Participation, 60% Written Essay, 10% Letter of Reference

PA Outstanding Young Shepherd Entry Form:

Name: _____ **Age:** _____ **County:** _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: (_____) - _____ - _____ **Email:** _____

Local Newspaper Name & Address: _____

Checklist of Participation in PA Sheep & Wool Growers sponsored events:

Place a check next to those activities that you have participated in.

- _____ 2010 Keystone International Livestock Expo
- _____ 2010 Make It With Wool Contest
- _____ 2010 PA Shepherd's Symposium
- _____ 2010 Beginning Shepherd's Workshop
- _____ 2011 PA Farm Show
- _____ 2011 PSWGA Shearing School and Wool Handling Workshop
- _____ 2011 Keystone Classic
- _____ 2011 PA Performance Tested Ram Lamb & Boer Billy Testing Program
- _____ 2011 PA Sheep Field Day
- _____ 2011 Ag Progress Days

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Entry form must accompany the written essay and signed letter of reference.
 Entries must be postmarked by *September 1, 2011*. (Entries may not be emailed)

Completed entries are to be mailed to:

Joanne Evans, 3466 Breezy Point Road, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Questions: 717-485-0532 or genetic@innernet.net

KEYSTONE CLASSIC RESULTS!

The 2011 Keystone Classic Junior Show took place on June 17-19th at the Snider Ag Arena on the campus of Penn State University. Beautiful weather and another good turnout led to yet another quality show. 41 exhibitors from 4 different states exhibited 137 head of sheep and goats. A big thank you to the Classic's continued supporters who donate their time and money so that this show will continue to happen. Below is a list of this year's winners.

Champion Market Lamb:	Delaney Carey, PA
Res. Champion Market Lamb:	Chandler Carey, PA
Champion Market Goat:	Haylee Dietrich, PA
Res. Champion Market Goat:	Mallory Perchinski, PA
Champion Dorset Ram:	Caleb Wright, PA
Champion Dorset Ewe:	Troy Longenecker, PA
Champion Cheviot Ram:	Tommy Chapman, NY
Champion Cheviot Ewe:	Kyle MacCauley, PA
Champion Hampshire Ram:	Tyler Majchrzak, MD
Champion Hampshire Ewe:	Callie Taylor, PA
Champion Oxford Ram:	Brittany Truax, PA
Champion Oxford Ewe:	Brittany Truax, PA
Champion Natural Colored Ram:	Chelsea Bilyeu, PA
Champion Natural Colored Ewe:	Chelsea Bilyeu, PA
Champion Shropshire Ram:	Tyler Majchrzak, MD
Champion Shropshire Ewe:	Tyler Majchrzak, MD
Champion Southdown Ram:	Connor McCrumb, PA
Champion Southdown Ewe:	Connor McCrumb, PA
Champion Suffolk Ram:	Chris MacCauley, PA
Champion Suffolk Ewe:	Chris MacCauley, PA
Champion Tunis Ewe:	Kyle MacCauley, PA
Supreme Champion Ram:	Caleb Wright, PA (Dorset)
Supreme Champion Ewe:	Chelsea Bilyeu, PA (Natural Colored)
Top Gun Award:	Chris MacCauley, PA
John Conaway Memorial Award:	Taylor Peck, NJ



2011 Pennsylvania Ram Lamb and Meat Goat Buck Sale Slated for Aug. 6

Livestock Center Evaluated 29 Ram Lambs and 30 Meat Goat Bucks

Pennsylvania Furnace, Pa. – The Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center will host a sale of the top performing ram lambs and meat goat bucks selected from an industry-improving growth trial on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 1:00 p.m..

Twenty-nine ram lambs and 30 meat goat bucks, consigned by sheep and meat goat producers from across Pennsylvania and from nearby states, participated in the trial. All animals sold at the sale are considered flock or herd improvers. Rams and bucks are sold with growth data, feed efficiency, loin measurements and fat thicknesses.

Breeds consigned to sale include:

29 Ram Lambs:	30 Meat Goat Bucks:
8 Dorsets	24 Full Blood Boer
10 Suffolks	6 Purebred/ Percentage Boers
2 Dorpers	
2 Shropshires	
1 White Dorper	
5 Texels	
1 Merino	

The tested animals ranged in age from three to nine months (beginning test). They were tested for growth, muscling and fat deposition over a 77-day period for rams and a 70-day period for goats. The genetic potential of the rams and bucks completing the evaluation program is indicated by the data collected.

Upon finishing the test, rams and bucks were ultrasonically scanned for loin eye area and fat thickness and examined for breeding soundness. Sheep and meat goat producers can use this data to make important breeding and sales decisions that will offer consumers more value and farmers more profit.

Prior to the sale on Aug. 6, the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association will be conducting a field day with youth and adult educational programs. Schedules for the field day including events and speakers are included in the 2011 sale catalog.

For a sale catalog or information on the ram and buck test, contact the Livestock Evaluation Center staff at 814-238-2527 or [ghubbard@state.pa.us](mailto:g Hubbard@state.pa.us). For more information on the center and other performance testing programs and sales, go to "<http://www.livestockevaluationcenter.com>" www.livestockevaluationcenter.com.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Samuel E. Hayes, Jr. Livestock Evaluation Center measures genetic traits for beef, swine, sheep, and meat goats for two purposes: to benefit producers in evaluating economically important traits, and to benefit consumers by providing wholesome, high-quality products at an affordable price.

Lamb Production: Making Decisions

The ten dollar question for a meat producer is, “How do I make a profit from this operation?” After putting in hours in the barn, the field, at the steering wheel, on the paperwork, what is the bottom line? How does one make it look better? These questions lead to the next questions. Do I take lambs all to auction and hope the prices are good compared to what I have invested? Or- do I attempt to do “value-added” products to improve my lamb market offerings? Do I dare to direct market? Do I have the time and energy and ability to direct market? Do I invest in traveling to a Farmers’ Market? How do I decide? What profit do I need?

At least once in a shepherd’s life (maybe once per year) we go through this round of questions. If one decides to go the auction route, the answer is pretty much done. Watch the market and the holiday calendar. Schedule the breeding, watch the rate of gain, keep them healthy through weaning, make hauling arrangements and make the trips to the auction house. You may have to decide to which auction house to take them, but as far as a slaughter facility and further regulations, the job is finished. If you choose the direct market option or even choose to have lamb in your own freezer, other decisions await.

If the shepherd is lucky to live in an area where butchering operations exist relatively close, he can visit or call to see the cleanliness, rates, packing options and willingness of the plant to work with producers. One can also determine the local regulations and inspection requirements for various abattoir facilities. Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia all have differing state regulations. A recent debate has been on state inspected meat crossing state borders for sales. (It is not the purpose of this article to discuss regulations since the author is by no means an expert.) If one gets lamb processed at a facility that offers USDA inspection, then federal slaughtering requirements are met. A list of USDA facilities, *The FSIS Meat, Poultry and Egg Product Inspection Directory- By Establishment Name as of June 27, 2011*, is available online at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/MPI_Directory_Establishment_Name.pdf. The site is searchable by name. It is most useful to search by area code to locate a nearby facility. A cite listing USDA facilities for immediate slaughter of animals is found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/downloads/slaughter_list.pdf. Directories such as these help, but talking to local shepherds is also a recommended way to find a facility. After you decide where to take the lambs, what decisions await?

Wholesale? Whole? Half? 4H sale? Customer directed processing? Custom processing that you arrange for the customer? The more the processor does, the the more your profit goes down... unless you pass that cost along to the consumer. Getting the processor to do what you want and making it clear *what you wish to have done* are critical points. Pictures of cuts make very big impressions on the butchers and help customers to speak “butcherese”. American Lamb Board has some visual items in hardcopy and online to help show various cuts from the carcass. Videos are also available online for showing how to cut lamb if the butcher is not familiar with lamb cuts. Investigate recipes for the recommended cuts and pounds per package for an average meal when preparing to have you lamb packaged. Find out what to do with lesser known cuts, organ meats, hides? These lesser known parts can also bring income. You will have to determine the marketing approach that sells the products.

At the end of the “lamb year” your bottom line can be significantly altered depending on the approach you take to marketing and you willingness to make changes that adapt to the market. Some years the auction sale lot may be the best from the standpoint of labor and financial return. Other years you may get a long list of happy buyers that promise to be continued customers. Obviously there is no one right answer for all operations. Evaluating your options and keeping tabs on the markets seem to be the one guaranteed activity that all shepherds will have in common.

-L. Singley

Announcing the Pennsylvania's Shepherd Symposium*Saturday, October 22, 2011**Samuel E. Hayes Jr., PA Livestock Evaluation Center, Penn. Furnace, PA**Beginning Shepherd's Workshop**Sunday, October 23, 2011**Penn State Sheep Barns, Orchard Road, University Park, PA****Sponsored by:****PA Sheep & Wool Growers Association**PA Department of Agriculture**Penn State Department of Dairy & Animal Science**Penn State Extension**American Lamb Board**American Sheep Industry***Location is different for Saturday and Sunday programs!*****Saturday's Shepherd's Symposium:*****PA Livestock Evaluation Center, 1494 W. Pine Grove Road (Rte 45), PA Furnace, PA****Shepherd's Symposium...***Sat., Oct. 22nd, Livestock Evaluation Center*

Making sound reproduction management decisions can really make a significant impact to your flock, both economically and genetically. Join us as we explore the reproduction systems of the ram and ewe and learn how technology has come to play a vital role in the process. Topics covered will include everything from ram collection to embryo transfers.

Our featured speaker is Glen Erickson, B.S., M.S., with New Frontier Genetics from Wellsville, Utah. Glen is actively working with deer, goats, sheep, and some exotic species on semen collection and evaluation, artificial insemination, and embryo transfer. After spending over 20 years as the Shepherd at Utah State, Glen now travels the country performing reproductive procedures for some of the most elite flocks and herds. This symposium will offer you the opportunity to mingle with peers and industry professionals alike. There will also be Youth Activities!

Silent Auction

There will be a silent auction to benefit PSWGA the day of the symposium. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Kathy Soder at 814-669-1374 or info@kbarkfarm.com

Symposium Tentative Schedule:**9:30 AM Saturday Registration****9:45 AM Welcome****10:00 AM Reproduction Systems of the Ram and Ewe***Featured Speaker: Glen Erickson***10:30 AM Youth Program on Small Ruminant Reproduction***James F. Evans, VMD**Melanie Barkley, PSU Extension***Noon Lamb Luncheon****12:30 PM Meet the 2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen Contestants****1:15 PM Hands-on Ram Collection,****Artificial Insemination, and Embryo Transfer***Featured Speaker: Glen Erickson***4:45 PM Coronation of 2012 PA Lamb & Wool Queen****5:00 PM Reception/Door Prizes Silent Auction Results****5:30 PM PSWGA Annual Meeting**

Beginning Shepherd's Workshop Sunday October 23rd...
Penn State Sheep Barns, Orchard Road, University Park, PA

This year's Workshop will focus on all things wool! We will discuss basic wool handling, preparation, storage, and evaluating your clip. Wool marketing, sales, and how to improve the quality of your fleeces will also be covered.

Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 AM Sunday

Program: 8:30 – Noon.

For more information, contact:

Joanne Evans at 717-485-0532 or genetic@innernet.net

Laurie Hubbard at 814-355-4215 or psushepherd@yahoo.com

REGISTRATION FORM:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Pre-Registration Fees: (payment received by 10/3/11, includes lunch and reception)

Symposium (Saturday):

_____ number @ \$30/adult PSWGA Members

_____ number @ \$35/adult non-members

_____ number @ \$15/children (ages 5-12)

_____ number @ \$70/family

(Family consists of 2 adults & 2 children ages 5-12) (Children 5 and under are free)

Workshop (Sunday):

_____ number @ \$20/adult PSWGA Members

_____ number @ \$30/adult non-members

_____ number @ \$10/children (ages 5-12)

Late-Registration Fees: (payment received after 10/3/11)

Symposium (Saturday):

_____ number @ \$40/adult

_____ number @ \$17/children (ages 5-12)

Workshop (Sunday):

_____ number @ \$25/adult

_____ number @ \$12/children (ages 5-12)

\$ Total Enclosed

(MEALS WILL BE CATERED, SO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED MEALS. CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THE DAY OF THE EVENT AT THE LATE- REGISTRATION RATE.)

Please make checks payable to *PSWGA*.

Return to: Greg Hubbard, PSWGA Treasurer, 1535 Purdue Mtn. Rd., Bellefonte, PA 16823

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

For more information about PSWGA please check out our web site- PASheep.com. Please contribute ideas and topics you'd like to see covered in future newsletters and the website.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS:

Next PSWGA informal meeting at the RAM sale on August 6, 2011.

LOOKING FORWARD:

August: 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

We are in desperate need of help to work the food booth at Ag Progress Days on Tuesday, August 16, Wednesday, August 17, and Thursday, August 18. We are asking for a six hour commitment this year, but will gladly take as much of your time as you can offer. If you can help at all during the event, please contact either Joanne Evans at 717-485-0532 or Laurie Hubbard at 814-355-4215. This is our only fund raiser for the association and we need "Shepherd-Power" to get the job done! Hope to see you all in August at Ag Progress Days in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA!

Wool Schools in Vermont: From the ASI Bulletin

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is holding a *Certified Wool Classing School* in Putney, Vt., on Aug 15-18 at Land Mark College. The focus of the school is to provide the U.S. sheep industry with trained wool classers who can class domestic wool for improved quality, which is imperative to American wool becoming more competitive and available in the international as well as domestic markets.

The course will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The cost of the school is \$150 per student and includes all supplies, manuals, a DVD and wool education publications. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Lisa Letendre of Green Mountain Spinnery at 802-387-4841 or lisaletendre@yahoo.com.

A *Wool Handling School* is scheduled for Aug 20-21 at Town Hall in Tunbridge, Vt., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. This two-day school will focus on wool fiber growth and development, fiber characteristics, wool traits, wool value traits, marketing options and wool trends. The cost of the course is \$35 per student and all materials will be provided by ASI including the manual, a DVD, wool education handouts and wool samples. For additional information, contact Jane Woodhouse at 805-592-3062 or vsqa.jane.w@fairpoint.net.

SEPTEMBER:

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>.

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

OCTOBER:

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, **Penn State Sheep Barns, Orchard Road, University Park, PA**
October 23, 2011

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*This Newsletter is published five times per year by the PSWGA. Copies in paper format are available for a fee of \$5.
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