

# PENNSYLVANIA SHEEP & Wool NEWS

PSWGA NEWSLETTER- NOVEMBER 2010



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

November 23, 2010

Greetings!

The fall of the year has always been a peaceful time to enjoy the year's bountiful harvest, maybe take some time for a short vacation and prepare for the upcoming winter. The last few years have been hectic with more organizations holding their annual meetings in the fall and PSWGA is no exception.

Our symposium and meeting were held in October with a great turnout! Both beginner and seasoned shepherds gained more insight and knowledge to help with their enterprises. Thanks to Queen Rebecca Hyde and Melanie Barkley, our junior members were able to have a fun and educational youth portion. Look for more youth events in the future! The annual PSWGA meeting was very productive. We discussed the events of the upcoming year and set into motion a few new items. We were, however, able to hold off Laurie having her baby till after that weekend. Laurie and Greg have now added a daughter (Mackenzie Rachel) to their family! Congratulations!

As per requested our organization now has its own website- <http://www.PASHEEP.com> . Kathy Soder has volunteered her time and expertise for developing this website. At this time it is accessible online but some portions are still under construction. Please feel free to send Kathy any information or suggestions pertinent to PSWGA and the sheep industry. We are also hosting a classified section, so send in your ads! As you will also note, the newsletter editing has been taken up by Linda Singley. This will free up some extra time for me to work on other aspects of PSWGA. At this time we would like everyone to start thinking about a logo for PSWGA. One is needed and we are trying to put together a contest-more details in the next newsletter.

In looking forward; the Pennsylvania Farm Show is just around the bend. Some of us take this event for granted (and sometimes dread with the added work and usual bad weather). Please take time to enjoy this tremendous agricultural event. I have the opportunity to attend meetings throughout the country (these meetings range from sheep to cattle to embryo transfer). The people attending are a varied group. One thing that they know Pennsylvania for is the Farm Show. They have attended live or via the internet. They are impressed at the size and variety included in one show! Fellow producers congratulate us on how well we can showcase agriculture as well as present our industry to the public. So, take time to ENJOY it! And please take another minute to thank the Farm Show Staff. As a representative to the Farm Show Committee; I am aware of how much time and effort these people put into making this an event for the producers as well as the public.

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

Well, off my soapbox and back to the lambing shed. Twelve more ewes left to lamb-maybe they could hurry up and finish before Thanksgiving. ....Oh yeah, that day is also coming soon-thirty people arriving for dinner, some to stay on for deer season. Black Friday shopping-Wouldn't miss it! Then Christmas.....more shopping, cookie baking, wrapping..... I guess that time off will have to wait! Enjoy this time of year and cherish your family time!

Joanne

### Remembrances From Our 2010 Queen

Good afternoon everyone, I would first like to say thank you to the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association for giving me the opportunity to travel around the state promoting the sheep and wool industry as 2010 Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen, it has been a great honor. Through my reign I have had the pleasure of attending various functions and meeting new people. One of my first duties in January was traveling to Harrisburg for the State Farm Show where I would pass out ribbons during the breeders show. I enjoyed having the chance to talk to various people from across the state who had brought their sheep to show as well as making some new friends that I would later see at other sheep related events. What made that trip even more worthwhile was when I had this little girl, who raised sheep, come up and start talking to me, she was so adorable I even had her help me pass out ribbons for a couple of classes. At farm show I also had my picture taken with the champion ewe and ram with the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture standing next to me, those photos later were published and on the cover of the magazine The Banner. In January I also attended my local 4-H Recognition Night where I gave a little speech. In March I went to the Northwestern Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Growers Association's annual dinner and helped present several awards and recognized their local Lamb and Wool Princesses. In April I was asked to travel to Mercer County Fairgrounds where a Shepherd's Auction and Market Lamb Sale would be held. There I helped display items during Shepherd's Auction and took them to the buyers. On May 14<sup>th</sup> I was asked to help with an Ag-Day that would be held in Dayton. It was an all day event for the Punxsutawney school district students from kindergarten to second grade. The theme was Healthy Foods for a Healthy Me, and there I talked to each group of students and educated them on fun sheep facts. In June the Keystone Classic Junior Sheep Show was held at State College and there I helped pass out ribbons and some awards. August was a busy month, I attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Performance Tested Ram Lamb and Meat Goat Buck Sale, where I helped with the quiz bowl and enjoyed being the official question reader. Ag-Progress Days was soon to follow where I helped in the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association Food booth where for three whole days we made hundreds of American Lamb Sandwiches and Gyros. I had a blast meeting different people from the association, and even during the never ending lunch rush we had fun. Right after that I was preparing myself for the local Crawford County Fair, although I was very busy showing my 4-H Market Lamb that week, I still had time to put on a presentation to the public on Sheep By-Products and I also helped present the Spinners Choice Award for the best fleece. In September I set up my display along with a craft table at the Northwestern Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Family Field Day. Most recently in October I traveled to Harrisburg to pass out ribbons during the Breeders Show at the Keystone International Livestock Expo. There I was also a contestant in the Lead Line Competition. All this year I also attend several Grange Meetings and Farm Rural Banquets. It is hard to believe that this year is about to come to an end I have made so many new memories in the opportunities that I received as being the queen. I would like to say a very special thanks to Laurie and Gregg and their family for all of the help in making arrangements for all the different functions I attend as well as all their support. Thank you to Joanne Evens and the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association for this opportunity. I would also like to thank my family for supporting me through my reign especially my mom she has been there with me for every function taking pictures, making sure I got there on time, making some of wool outfits, and preparing me for that days' event. I would like to say Good Luck to all the contestants and to the new queen, have fun with your reign in 2011 you will have a blast and it will go by quick so take every opportunity that is given to you. Thank you. Rebecca



**L-R: 2011 PA Lamb & Wool Princess, Anna Stoner; 2011 PA Lamb & Wool Queen, Kara Kingsley;  
2010 PA Lamb & Wool Queen, Rebecca Hyde**

## Meet Our New Ambassadors!

PSWGA is an organization that is loaded with experienced shepherds. In order to guarantee our continued traditions and profitability of sheep raising in the state we need to share our skills, knowledge and enthusiasm with the incoming generation of new shepherds. Most of these younger persons have as much if not more energy than some of us with more experience. Having these fresh faces learn from us and then speak on behalf of the organization at public events can only enhance the stability of shepherding for all of us. These new representatives were selected at the October Meeting after careful review of their applications. The Lamb and Wool Queen contestants were required to further present their views on sheep raising and their personal skills during live speeches and interviews at the meeting. Well done ladies! Thank you from all of us on the efforts you have done and will do to promote the group!

## Our Newest Recognition: The Outstanding Young Shepherds' Award

This fall for the first time a new tradition has been added to our list of events. The Young Shepherd Award was one of the ideas mentioned in the past and it materialized this year for the first time. These three outstanding young people got the recognition and encouragement from the group to be our future Association members and sheep/shepherd advocates. The PSWGA sponsored a competition for youth to be named the Pennsylvania Outstanding Young Shepherd. Candidates were selected from a rather large group of first time applicants based on participation in PSWGA sponsored events, a personal essay and a letter of recommendation from someone knowledgeable of their shepherding activities and skills. Congratulations to these three young winners. Keep us posted on your flocks' progress. Enjoying staying warm with your new jackets. Wear them proudly!

Pictured L-R: Hannah Imgrund (Jr. division), the award, Mallory Ketterer (Sr. division), and Troy Longenecker (Sr. division)



### **Pennsylvania Farm Show: Opportunities Await!**

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is coming! January 8-15th, 2011 will feature some fantastic examples of the hard work that it takes to produce some of Pennsylvania's finest agricultural commodities. Please keep in mind that deadlines are approaching quickly (some may be past by the time this newsletter reaches you). If you know some good advice for people wanting to enter exhibits or animals please share them with us in the newsletter or via website contact. If you have entered the fleece show in the past please share your experience. Forms are available online at <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us/page/forms.aspx> if you do have computer access.



<http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us/Default.aspx>

### **A Few Notes on the Fall Meeting**

Lamb appetizers were a smashing success! Winners prepared GREAT FOOD and GREAT NEW recipes. Also the lamb luncheon was tasty and filling as always. Many thanks go to our chefs and to all the members who helped organize, set up and tear down the meeting. The silent auction on Saturday raised funds to defray expenses associated with the symposium. Many of our group donated items of a good variety from potatoes to sweaters. Many, but not all, stayed for the PSWGA Annual Meeting on Saturday at 5:30PM. Lively discussion was held on several subjects. We still need new members and need to provide reasons for new people to want to be involved. So send your ideas to an officer to get them to the membership! This fall meeting is when the group does a good bit of planning and review of events. Your opinion does count and we would like to hear it!

## MAKE IT WITH WOOL:

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS AND GOOD LUCK IN RENO!



**Preteens:** Winner A.Carleton, Darlington RU: S. Carleton, Darlington, E.Young, New Galilee  
**Junior:** S.Augustine, Palmerton, RU P. Burd, Farmington  
**Senior:** G.Auguastine, Palmerton RU Rochelle Gossman, Somerset & G.Auguastine, Palmerton  
**Adult:** S.Donahoe, Bedford, RU J. Klein, Beaver  
**Made for Others:** S. Donahoe, Bedford, RU K. Adams, Indiana, PA

## REVIEW OF THE PSWGA FALL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

On October 16 & 17, 2010 the Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers held their annual symposium at the Livestock Evaluation Center in Pennsylvania Furnace. The main focus of this symposium was to help producers better utilize resources on their farms for a more productive, profitable enterprise.

The opening talk was “The Grass is Always Greener... Forage growth, selection & identification. Management to maintain productive pastures.” Donna Foulk & Suzette Truax began the day by teaching producers how to evaluate their pastures using Pasture Conditioning Scores. This included but was not limited to soil fertility, erosion, plant/forage and weed identification. The process continued with discussions about rotational grazing; maintaining your pastures with proper grazing times and vegetation heights in relation to the type and condition of your field. We were taught to preserve our pastures by maintaining a “stress lot” to be used instead of pastures during inclement grazing times, such as a drought period. Producers also learned how to extend the grazing season by stockpiling fields to be grazed during winter months.

To finish up the morning program Robert Beck of the Pennsylvania Dog Law Enforcement discussed issues pertaining to predator losses. He discussed various predators of the sheep (i.e. coyotes) and the damage they inflict; how to take some steps to prevent predator loss, as well as how to report losses due to predators.

A lamb luncheon was enjoyed while candidates for the 2011 PA Lamb & Wool Queen gave presentations about their experiences with sheep and the industry.

The afternoon session began with Lacy Weimer from Kencove Fencing who discussed several types of fencing appropriate for sheep farming. The discussion covered the whole gamut from fencing types (i.e. high tensile, netting, woven wire, etc) to chargers and grounding requirements. During the presentation, Lacy fielded questions from producers who were obviously interested in this topic.

Dr. David Wolfgang spoke about one of the more important health issues in sheep-internal parasites. A review of the types of parasites that infect sheep was followed by important parasitic life cycle facts useful in controlling worm infestations in sheep. The range of wormers and management techniques to aid in the reduction of the harmful effects of intestinal parasites were fully discussed.

Jim Evans stepped up to the podium to talk about Livestock Protection and Herding Dogs. He reviewed the most common breeds of dogs used for guarding sheep and discussed some of the issues to consider when selecting a dog to keep with your flock. Herding dog breeds and their working traits (i.e. Australian Shepherds vs Border Collies) preceded a working dog demonstration by “Phantom”. This demonstration showed us how much work a good dog can save a shepherd.

Throughout the day a youth workshop was held. In the morning workshop, Rebecca Hyde, 2010 PA Lamb and Wool Queen, spoke to the junior group about wool. They were taught the characteristics and qualities of wool as well as the process used in the production of woolen items, such as blankets and clothing. Then the fun began and each participant had the opportunity to work with wool, making craft items, pins, and worked to dye wool with Kool Aid! The afternoon session was geared toward lambing season. Melanie Barkley, PSU Extension Agent from Bedford County held an interactive discussion which was geared toward helping the students prepare for lambing time in their own flock. There was a hands on training using a lifelike lamb replica which allowed the students to recognize and deal with different lambing positions.

The speakers from throughout the day gathered for a Speaker Panel Discussion to allow symposium participants another chance to ask questions and further discuss the topics. We finished the day with a fashion show of some of the contestants from the Make It With Wool competition (also held that day); the crowning of the 2011 Lamb & Wool Queen; door prizes and a reception that preceded the PSWGA Annual Meeting.

The second day of the symposium was geared toward beginning shepherds and people interested in becoming sheep producers. Dr. Jim Evans and Melanie Barkley shared topics for a day of "Small Ruminant Health". It was a day of hands on events-evaluation, diagnosis and problem solving in sheep; learning to choose and dose the correct medications and dewormers; learning the proper method for giving injections as well as the best procedures to maintain healthy, happy sheep.

*For more information about Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers please check out our web site- [PASheep.com](http://PASheep.com). or contact Kathy Soder at [info@kbarkfarm.com](mailto: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

### OHIO SHEEP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION'S BUCKEYE SHEPHERDS' SYMPOSIUM

December 11, 2010

Two Nationwide Plaza · P O Box 182383 · Columbus, OH 43218

614-246-8293 · 614-246-8693 fax

### ASI 2011 Annual Convention

January 19-22, 2011, Reno, NV, 800-843-2427

### LOOKING FORWARD:

#### February Events:

PSWGA Meeting, PA Livestock Evaluation Center: February 26, 2011

#### 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 5-6, 2011.

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

Waynesburg Sheep and Fiber Festival

#### 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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