A publication of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative
President’s Message

Looking forward to a prosperous 2017!

I hope this message finds you enjoying the beauty that is winter in Wisconsin and with the longer days setting in the thoughts of spring are able to creep into our mind along with knowing the days of frozen water pails and the pile of ice outside the barn door should come to an end soon.

By the time you read this message, the WSBC Board of directors have already been busy planning for 2017 and beyond. Budgets are completed. WSBC Activities and events are being worked on and planning and discussion has already started on the 2017 Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival as we strive to continue to produce a premier event of its kind right here in our backyard. New this year the board has committed to a full redesign and update to the WSWF website. Look forward to that launches in the spring of 2017.

As with any group, we are always in search of new ideas to help move the WSBC forward and serve our membership. Do not hesitate to contact any member of the board with any thoughts/concerns/ideas that you may have. The strength of our volunteers that help us create and oversee the activities of the WSBC and the WSWF never ceases to amaze me, and we are always looking for more to join the great group already in place. Let a board member or myself know if you’re interested in lending a hand.

My guess is everyone has heard the old saying “If farming was easy, everyone would be doing it”. Based on the trials and tribulations of our own barn this lambing season, I’m not sure truer words have ever been spoken. Our membership is made up of a diverse group of people who represent many different segments of the industry, producing a wide variety of products that are available to the end user, the consumer. At some point I’m sure we have all questioned if we know what we are doing, or just when you get one problem solved to take you a step forward, a new one arises to try to take that step back from you. Learning from past issues and mistakes, both positive and negative, is a must if you wish to preserver in this industry. Thankfully the members of the WSBC, and the agriculture community in general, are willing to help each other out and offer advice when asked, and share in the enjoyment when things go well for their fellow members/producers. What a great industry to be a part of!

The plan is for this issue of the Shepherd to make it in your mailbox before our annual meeting on March 11, 2017 in Arlington Wisconsin at the UW Public Events Building. Once again, the morning program that is Arlington Sheep Days will be full of beneficial information for shepherds of all levels. As in the past, a youth portion of that program will also be offered. The WSBC is proud to partner with UW- Madison on the event. Join us for a lunch and the WSBC business meeting that follows. It is always a pleasure to renew old friendships and make new ones as well as the recognition of some very deserving individuals in the sheep industry.

I look forward to seeing you in March and encourage all of you to get involved in Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative. It truly is a great organization!

Alan Thorson, WSBC President
9TH ANNUAL ARLINGTON SHEEP DAY

and

WISCONSIN SHEEP BREEDERS COOPERATIVE

2017 BANQUET, RECOGNITION PROGRAM & ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Public Events Facility, Arlington Agricultural Research Station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration - Public Events Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 – 10:30</td>
<td>Getting the most out of your wool clip, the Basics of Wool Grading – Todd Taylor, Arlington Sheep Unit Manager, Dept of Animal Science, Arlington Agricultural Research Station, UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:15</td>
<td>Making Decisions on Feeding Lambs to a Lightweight Market vs. a Slaughter Weight Market – Michael Neary, PhD., Extension Sheep Specialist, Department of Animal Sciences, Purdue University, W Lafayette, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 - 12:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Update on Current Research/Topics of Interest to the Sheep Industry, Including a Review of the Southern Indiana Consortium Lamb Packing Plant – Michael Neary, PhD., Extension Sheep Specialist, Department of Animal Sciences, Purdue University, W Lafayette, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Adjourn morning program</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 - Noon</td>
<td>Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Banquet</td>
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<td>1:30 - Noon</td>
<td>Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, 2017 Recognition Program &amp; Annual Meeting</td>
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Arlington Sheep Day is an event organized by the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, sponsored by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Animal Sciences and Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. For more information on the 9th Annual Arlington Sheep Day, contact Todd Taylor (608-846-5858, toddtaylor@wisc.edu)

For more information on the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Annual Meeting & Recognition Banquet or membership to the WSBC, contact Jill Alf, Executive Secretary (608-868-2505, wisbc@centurytel.net)
Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative 2017 Scholarship

WSBC is pleased to announce that up to $4000.00 in scholarships will be awarded in 2017. Parents or applicant must have been members of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Coop for a minimum of (2) years including the year of application.

Must be a high school senior graduating in 2016 or college student age 25 or younger. Applicant must be enrolled in UW-Madison Agriculture Short Course, technical school, community college or an accredited 4-year college in the fall of 2017.

Previous WSBC scholarship winners are not eligible to re-apply. Applicant must have carried sheep as a 4-H or FFA project for a minimum of 2 years. Scholarships to be divided at the Scholarship Committee member’s discretion. Complete information and application can be found at the WSBC website. http://www.wisbc.com/

DEADLINE: Postmarked by June 15, 2017. Late applications will not be considered. Return to: Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative 7811 N Consolidated School Rd Edgerton, WI 53534
9th ARLINGTON SHEEP DAY
and
WISCONSIN SHEEP BREEDERS COOPERATIVE
2017 ANNUAL MEETING BANQUET & RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Saturday, March 11, 2017
Public Events Facility, Arlington Agricultural Research Station
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison
N695 Hopkins Rd., Arlington, WI

REGISTRATION
(One form for each individual or family—Please list all information if purchasing a WSBC membership)

Sheep Day Attendance Name(s): ________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________ Email: ____________________________________

WSBC Membership Name: ____________________________________________
Farm Name: ______________________ Website Address: ___________________
Breed(s) of Sheep Raised: _____________________________________________

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<tr>
<th>Registration Fees</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Registration available at the door only for the morning educational programs)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning Educational Programs – Individual registration</strong></td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning Educational Programs – Family registration includes all family members</strong></td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td><strong>WSBC Recognition Banquet (advance registration required, unless attending the morning educational sessions only)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Menu:</strong> Leg of Lamb &amp; Sliced Pork Loin, Herb Roasted Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, 7-Layer Salad, Assorted Pie w/Ice-cream Open to all Sheep Day attendees &amp; WSBC members</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Menu: Same as above, only for youth 10 years and younger</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2017 WSBC Annual Membership Dues</strong></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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Advance Registration Deadline: Postmarked by March 1, 2017

Make checks payable to WSBC/send to: Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op
7811 N. Consolidated School Road
Edgerton, WI 53534
Mike Neary Featured Speaker at Arlington Sheep Day

Mike Neary, PhD., Animal Sciences Extension Sheep Specialist, Department of Animal Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, will speak at the 9th Annual Arlington Sheep Day, Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Public Events Facility, Arlington Agricultural Research Station, Arlington, WI.

Neary will have two presentations: Making Decisions on Feeding Lambs to a Lightweight Market vs a Slaughter Weight Market and Update on Current Research/Topics of Interest to the Sheep Industry. Neary’s second presentation will also include A Review of the Southern Indiana Consortium Lamb Packing Plant.

He holds a B.S. from the University of Nebraska and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Mississippi State University. His emphasis has been on lamb carcass composition research, including evaluation of electronic technology to assess carcass composition and carcass component growth as influenced by nutrition and genotype. He has also done research on grazing systems including multispecies grazing utilizing sheep and cattle; winter grazing and forage evaluation for ewes; and sheep and agroforestry grazing systems, in addition to sheep nutrition and management applied research.

Continuing the Legacy: The Future of the UW Sheep Program

In this edition of The Wisconsin Shepherd, you will find a letter from Dr. Dave Thomas that we are both honored and saddened to publish. For the past 26 years, the sheep producers of this state have been blessed to have such a talented and devoted individual leading the University of Wisconsin-Madison Sheep Program. When you think of all the research and Extension outreach Dr. Thomas and his department have provided which positively affected our industry, how do you properly thank him for all his contributions? We can first express our gratitude and honor him for his accomplishments whenever possible. However, that is not enough.

Dr. Thomas points out in his letter some very valid concerns about the state of and direction of the sheep program now based solely at the Arlington Sheep Unit. Budget constraints are just one of the many factors affecting the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), but another is the direction in which the college wants to head. From the outside looking in, it appears that they are pointed towards a less focused, multi-disciplinary approach, despite the attempts of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative and others to lobby for the continued pre-retirement levels. Overall, we share the concerns that Dr. Thomas references.

In our opinion, perhaps the best way to honor the legacy of the accomplishments of Dr. Thomas is to continue to fight for the continued staffing and funding of the current sheep unit at Arlington. We are still in the process of finalizing a proposal that may help ensure that essential extension work for the sheep community of Wisconsin will continue. Encouraging your state representatives to vote for adequate funding of departments that have a direct impact on a Wisconsin industry is strongly suggested. Continued conversations with CALS leadership will be essential to reinforce the importance of this department, and this will need to come not only from your Cooperative, but individual producers who view its importance as highly as we do.

Please join us in our efforts to honor Dr. Thomas and those who have gone before him. If we fail, much will be lost...

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors
Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative
Alan Thorson, President
Jeff Nevens, Vice-President
Sue Rupnow
Todd Baumer
Maralyn Fowler
Debbie Petzel
Keith Schultz
Brandon Knutson
Tim Miller
Sara Hildebrandt
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An Exhibitor’s Guide to the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)

**What is a medicated feed and why is it used?**
Medicated feed is feed with a drug added to it.

**Is all feed medicated?** No, when you purchase feed, you have the option to buy feed without medications mixed into it.

**Who is impacted by these changes?** Livestock owners, including youth with animal projects, who feed their animals medicated feeds.

**Beginning January 1, 2017 you will need a Veterinary Feed Directive to buy feeds containing:**
- Chlortetracycline (CTC)
- Chlortetracycline/Sulfamethazine
- Chlortetracycline/Sulfamethazine/Penicillin
- Hygromycin B
- Lincomycin
- Oxytetracycline (OTC)
- Oxytetracycline/Neomycin
- Penicillin
- Sulfadimethoxine/Ormetoprim
- Tylosin
- Tylosin/Sulfamethazine
- Virginiamycin

*Note: Tilmicosin (Pulmotil, Tilmovet), Avilamycin (Kafault), Florfenicol (Aquaflor, Nuflor) currently require a VFD order.*

**What is a Veterinary Feed Directive?** A Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is an order from a veterinary that gives permission for you to order or buy medicated feed containing certain drugs.

**What is a VFD drug and why did the FDA change their process?**
A VFD drug is an antibiotic that may be used for both humans and livestock. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates both human and animal drugs, and the VFD changes are the FDA’s response to concerns about production uses of antibiotics in animals. In the future, antibiotics used in animals and humans will only be allowed to control or prevent disease, not for production uses, such as increased rate of gain.

**Are all antibiotics affected?**
No, not all antibiotics will be considered VFD drugs. The use of injectable antibiotics will not be affected; and some drugs used in water will now require a prescription from a veterinarian.

**How does a VFD order work?**
A VFD order is similar to a prescription you would get from your doctor, however a veterinarian will be giving you a VFD order for a medicated feed. VFDs are not prescriptions; a prescription requires a pharmacist, a VFD does not require a pharmacist.

**How do you get a VFD order?**
To get a VFD order, you must have an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with a veterinarian. A VCPR means a veterinarian and a person who raises livestock (client) regularly work together to attend to the health of the client’s animals, where the veterinarian regularly visits and provides advice about proper medication of the animals.

**How do you know if you need a VFD order?**
Feed labels of VFD drugs have the following statement: “Caution: Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this VFD drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.”

**What are examples of medications that will require a VFD order?**
Examples of feed-grade medications moving to VFD drug status are chlortetracycline, tylosin and penicillin. The detailed list can be found at www.fda.gov.

**Where can I buy feed with my VFD order?**
You can buy VFD feeds at any mill, retailer or other establishment listed as a distributor or manufacturer with the FDA. The list can be found at www.fda.gov. If you are purchasing feed that requires a VFD order, you will need to present the VFD order before purchase.

**How do feed stores check for VFD orders?**
Previously, VFD feeds were purchased without documentation at your feed store or mill. However, starting **January 1, 2017**, you must first present a VFD order, written by a veterinarian, to purchase VFD feeds. Either you or your veterinarian may forward a copy of the VFD order to your feed mill.

**How long is a VFD good for?**
A VFD is only good for one order of feed to fill the duration of use specified by the veterinarian on the VFD order. No VFD expiration may exceed 6 months; some authorizations must be even shorter than 6 months, as indicated by the drug label. It is important to note that the VFD feed may not be fed after the expiration date.

**What records will I need to keep?**
The original VFD order will be kept by the veterinarian for two years. The livestock owner and feed mill must keep copies of the VFD order on file for two years.


The Wisconsin Shepherd Marks 28 Years

It was January, 1989. Wisconsin had just come off one of the worst drought years in recent memory. Lamb prices would tank from historical highs the year before and pelts skidded by an average of ten dollars as demand all but disappeared. Equity was holding weekly lamb pools at eleven locations around the state.

The Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op and UW-Extension would co-sponsor a shearing school for advanced shearers at the Wis-Zona Ranch in Bancroft, WI, while the Great Lakes Wool Growers Co-op, Wooltique, UW-River Falls and UW-Madison would sponsor a beginning shearing school at the Arlington Sheep Barn.

The Sheep Management ETN Series offered producers two-way communications between speakers and listeners at sites located in every county in the state. Hosted by Woody Lane over an eight month period, the free hour and a half sessions covered topics from Drought Alternatives for the Flock to Lambing Tips.

By late March the 11th Annual Wisconsin Sheep Industry Conference would take place at Holiday Inn-Southeast in Madison, where over 900 producers and family members would gather for two days of educational sessions and trade show, and nine state breed associations would convene their annual meetings.

All of the above and more were reported in the inaugural issue of the Wisconsin Shepherd – January 1989. As Wisconsin Sheep Breeders President Larry Becker pointed out in his first of many columns to come, “This is the premier issue of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Newsletter... If the response is positive about this publication, we hope to provide you with future issues.”

Ironically, that fledgling issue also carried the news that Dr. Art Pope had retired after 43 years of service to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It was a milestone announcement for both the industry and state sheep producers and looking back, a harbinger of sorts for things to come. Art and Betty Pope would be recognized as Master Shepherds at the industry conference just two months later, where Dr. Pope was also presented with the Friend of the Industry Award at a banquet highlighting his career and where many associates and former students gathered to congratulate him.

UW-Madison Extension Sheep Specialist Woody Lane was the editor for the rollout of the Wisconsin Shepherd, while Kathy Becker handled advertising and Sylvia Roembke the mailing list. In those dawning days of computer technology, it was noted in the credits that “This newsletter was designed and laid out on a Macintosh computer using the “Ready, Set, Go!” desktop publishing program and printed on a Apple LaserWriter Printer.”

The Wisconsin Shepherd evolved through several formats and as many editors over its nearly three decades, surviving to appear much as it did in that first issue, a 28-page magazine dedicated to bringing information to the state’s sheep producers.
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Email: _________________________________________

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Buy more. Spend less. Inquire about dollar volume discounts. Call: 630-715-1281
Some Final Thoughts on the UW-Madison Sheep Program

David L. Thomas, Emeritus Professor of Sheep Management and Genetics
Department of Animal Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The UW-Madison sheep program has a long history of servicing and supporting the sheep producers of Wisconsin. Starting in the late 1800’s after the College of Agriculture was established at UW-Madison, Frank Kleinheinz was the noted shepherd and instructor of sheep production into the early 1900’s. Older Wisconsin sheep producers will remember the contributions of Tom McKenzie, UW-Madison and Arlington shepherd, and Carl Rydberg, Spooner Ag Research Station shepherd, into the 1960s/1970s, and these shepherds were followed by Jim Elphick at the Arlington Ag Research Station and Tom Cadwallader at the Spooner Ag Research Station. The sheep production activities of these shepherds were complemented by the educational programs of Meat and Animal Science Extension Specialists Jim Lacey, Quin Kolb, Carl Hirschinger, Vern Felts, Fred Giesler, Dick Vatthauer, and Woody Lane. The faculty member that supervised the UW-Madison sheep program and conducted most of the sheep research for 43 years from 1946 to his retirement in 1989 was Prof. Art Pope.

I grew up in Mineral Point, Wisconsin and raised and showed Hampshire sheep during my high school and college years from 1963 through 1971. I knew by reputation many of the people mentioned above that were involved with the UW sheep program. At the first competitive showing of my sheep in 1964 at the Iowa County Fair, Tom McKenzie was the judge. I showed under both Jim Elphick and Art Pope in subsequent years. I enrolled my flock in the Wisconsin Sheep Improvement Program (WSIP) coordinated by Vern Felts and purchased a Wisconsin Certified Hampshire ram through an annual sale of Wisconsin test station and WSIP Certified rams. I also purchased ewes through the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Bred Ewe Sale that was held annually in the winter at the Dane County Fairgrounds. As a freshman Meat and Animal Science student at UW-Madison in 1967, I took the Beginning Sheep Shearing School on campus in the Stock Pavilion with instructors Art Pope, Rudy Erickson (I think he was a grad student at the time), and Roger Harris (Manager, Wisconsin Wool Growers Cooperative) with sheep provided by Jim Elphick from the Arlington Station. During my 4 years at UW-Madison, I had the opportunity to interact with Art Pope and Jim Elphick as my instructors and to respect them even more for their knowledge and humanity.

There is no doubt that knowledge of and participation in sheep activities in Wisconsin during my high school and college years, where UW-Madison faculty and staff were a constant presence, had a major impact on my career choice to be a university faculty member working with sheep. And I’m not the only person to have been put on this academic sheep path by an active Wisconsin sheep industry greatly assisted by UW-Madison faculty and staff. Other sheep academicians that grew up in Wisconsin in this same environment are Jeff Held, South Dakota State University; Richard Ehrhardt, Michigan State University; and Jim Thompson, retired from Oregon State University.

Therefore, after leaving Wisconsin in 1971 after graduation from UW-Madison, it was a wonderful opportunity for my wife, Lynda, and me to return 20 years later with our three children in 1991 to the faculty as a Professor in the Department of Meat and Animal Science (now Animal Sciences) with an extension, research, and teaching appointment working with sheep. In the 20 years previous, Lynda and I had spent 2 years in the U.S. Peace Corps in Kenya, 4 years at Oklahoma State University where I received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, and 14 years on the faculties of Animal Science at Oregon State University (4 years) and the University of Illinois (10 years).

During my almost 26 years at UW-Madison, I’ve had the great pleasure to work with several very talented colleagues in the sheep program: Randy Gottfredson who worked with me on campus for many years; Jim Elphick for a few years, followed by Rob Zelinsky, and now Todd Taylor as managers of the Arlington Sheep Unit; and Yves Berger for many years, followed by Michel Baldin and Rusty Burgett for a few years each, and finally Phil Holman as Sheep Researchers and Superintendents at the Spooner Ag Research Station. I’m very proud of the accomplishments that we have made since 1991 that were built on the very solid foundation of those UW-Madison sheep faculty and staff that came before us. Some of these are:

1. Starting and conducting the only dairy sheep research and outreach program in North America at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Most of the dairy sheep flocks in the U.S. descend from dairy sheep stock imported by the Spooner Station.
Integral to the Wisconsin Idea has been the outreach to sheep producers by specialists like Dave Thomas, shown here speaking to an overflow crowd at the final Spooner Sheep Day last August. The future of Extension’s efforts on behalf of the state’s 2500 or more sheep producers is in question.

2. Building the purebred flocks of Polypay, Targhee, and Hampshire sheep at the Arlington Ag Research Station into nationally recognized sources of breeding stock based on both competitive showing and estimated breeding values for important traits through the National Sheep Improvement Program.

3. Restarting the Arlington Sheep Day and continuing the Spooner Sheep Day, the longest-running agricultural field day in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at 64 annual programs.

4. Starting the annual Badger Production Sale, an annual sale of purebred sheep from the Arlington Sheep Unit organized by our Animal Sciences students.

5. Continuing the annual Beginning Sheep Shearing School at the Arlington Ag Research Station.

6. Providing major support in the form of sheep and educational programs to the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative for their major educational and outreach programs (the previous Wisconsin Sheep Industry Conference and now the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival).

7. Started the annual Great Lakes Dairy Sheep Symposium and were instrumental in starting the Dairy Sheep Association of North America that continues the annual symposium.

8. Taught a Sheep Production course to UW-Madison students that is consistently ranked by students as one of the best classes offered in the Department of Animal Sciences.

9. Trained graduate students at the M.S., Ph.D., and post-doctoral levels that are making real contributions to animal agriculture, e.g., Cody Hiemke, Lamb Manager for Niman Ranch (natural meats company) and a leader in national sheep organizations; Clare (Mikolayunas) Sandrock, former UW-Madison Small Ruminant Extension Specialist; Mariestela Rovai, Dairy Extension Specialist, South Dakota State University; Rusty Burgett, Director, National Sheep Improvement Program; and Tom Murphy, Assistant Professor of Sheep Production, Montana State University.

While there may be university sheep programs in the U.S. that were more effective in their research program, their teaching program, their extension program, or had better recognized purebred flocks than the UW-Madison program, I don’t think there was a university sheep program that was as broad as ours with good to excellent performance in all of these areas.

The future?

I’m very concerned about the continued viability of the UW-Madison sheep program. I retired on January 17, 2017, which is no great loss because no one is irreplaceable. However, the Department of Animal Sciences has made the decision to not pursue permission from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to hire another sheep researcher to fill my position. This decision was made due to several faculty vacancies within the department that were ranked higher than a sheep scientist. As a result of no future sheep scientist to conduct sheep research at UW-Madison, the decision was made to close the sheep research resource at the Spooner Station, and the sheep were sold in October 2016. This situation is directly due to the severe budget cuts to the UW System by the current Governor and his majority party in our state legislature, which has resulted in decreases in faculty numbers at all UW System universities. The sheep research program at UW-Madison is the latest casualty of our state government’s continued underfunding of the UW System. Unless there are big changes in the future that I do not foresee, sheep production research and the training of graduate students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels in the various areas of sheep production has come to an end at UW-Madison. For this, I’m greatly disappointed and ashamed.

For the time being, the College has made a commitment to maintain the sheep flock at the Arlington Ag Research Station with the manager, Todd Taylor, and full-time employee, Derald Stronach, in order to provide sheep for teaching and Extension programs and to researchers who wish to use sheep as research models. However, with continued budget deficits facing the Department of Animal Sciences and no sheep faculty member to speak on behalf of the sheep program when budget decisions are made, the Arlington Sheep Unit is vulnerable. It is very, very important for the Wisconsin sheep industry to show and voice strong support for the current sheep program at UW-Madison in order to keep this valuable resource for the industry.
Wisconsin proud! Kimberly Westenberg, Watertown, WI, placed in the top 10 at the National Make It With Wool competition held in Denver, CO and won the Machine Embroidery Award for her embroidered coat (inset). Westenberg took high honors in the Senior Division at the 2016 MIWW state competition this past September, earning a spot in the national contest.

Kelly Krause, Mukwonago, WI, along with fellow contestant Kim Westenberg, represented Wisconsin at the MIWW national contest in January. Krause took first place in the Best Constructed Garment category at the 2016 state MIWW competition in Jefferson. She and Westenberg attended workshops on bound buttonholes and drop spindles. Both received airfare to the national event from the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative and hotel accommodations from the National MIWW program.

State Make It With Wool Director Wynn Wittkopf, Pewaukee, and Past MIWW State Director Carol Battenberg, Johnson Creek (shown here), have produced a beautiful handmade quilt that will be raffled off on behalf of the Wisconsin MIWW program. In the past, quilts that have been raffled have been supplied by the national MIWW program with tickets sold at the sheep and wool festival. This year, tickets will be available at a number of sheep and fiber related events around the state including Arlington Sheep Day on March 11. Single raffle tickets are $1.00, six for $5.00 and 12 for $10.00. The Wisconsin Make It With Wool program is supported by the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative and will hold the annual state competition at Jefferson on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Persons interested in entering the contest should contact Wynn Wittkopf at 262 370-1433 or email jwwittkopf@core.com.

Blackberry Ridge Woolen Mill, LLC
For Sale

We are nearing retirement and would like to see the wool processing business continue. Located 20 minutes west of Madison, Wisconsin, the property includes the mill, home, livestock barn, on 40 acres, 28 of which are wooded with a 5 acre pasture adjacent to the barn and a 5 acre hay field.

Contact: anne@blackberry-ridge.com
Northern Show Circuit Formed

By Debbie Petzel

Centuria, WI - In the fall of 2016, a group of livestock producers and showmen from northwestern Wisconsin met and formed a new association naming it the Northern Show Circuit. The mission of the new show circuit is to help promote the great benefits for youth in the raising and showing of livestock. Many youth in northern Wisconsin have limited options for shows and for some their only livestock show is their local county fair. It is a fact that youth learn best through hands on experiences with their livestock. Providing them with additional opportunities for learning experiences and creating new livestock shows is a main focus of this new organization. Raising and showing livestock helps to build increased self confidence and enhanced ability to achieve goals, not to mention life-long friendships and support networks.

Northern Show Circuit has planned some new and exciting things for youth in 2017. Save the date and join us for the Spring Show Lamb and Meat Goat sale scheduled for April 2, 2017 at UW-River Falls Lab Farm 2. We are working on a futurity points system for any animals purchased off the Northern Show Circuit Sales. This will encourage consignors to bring high quality animals and will encourage youth to feed, fit and show to the animal’s highest potential. For information on sale entries go to Smith Auctions at www.smith-auctions.com for online viewing of animals in March.

Another new event is a two day double header show over Memorial Day Weekend - Saturday and Sunday May 27-28 at the Pierce County Fairgrounds Ellsworth, WI - for multiple species (Beef, sheep, goats and swine). More shows and workshops are in the planning stages and we plan to keep all those interested in our events updated via a Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/northernshowcircuit/ or by email. NorthernShowCircuit@gmail.com

While setting up these events and shows is costly, most of the entry fees will be used to cover the facility rental for the events and for judges/officials as needed. We would like to try and keep these events very affordable for youth and hope to be able to draw others from throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota and beyond to expose our youth to different competition.

If you are interested in attending/showing, volunteering at these events or sponsorships and/or helping by providing a financial or other donation, please contact us to help offer some great experiences for youth. All funds raised will go back to the youth through prizes or awards.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Northern Show Circuit please feel free to contact us or like us on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/northernshowcircuit/

We look forward to hearing from you and are excited for a great 2017 show season. For more information or to volunteer, contact John Bazille - 715-684-9529 - jhkfarm@yahoo.com or Deb Petzel - 612-578-1528 - dspetzel@gmail.com
Eighty two years ago, wool was big business and the Wisconsin Cooperative Wool Growers, with its warehouse located in Milwaukee, was the major marketing arm for state sheep producers. The cooperative listed forty six locations throughout the state for receiving wool clips, but a large volume of wool was shipped by rail. Wisconsin Cooperative Wool Growers eventually became Great Lake Wool Growers which merged with North Central Wool Growers and eventually became part of Mid-States Wool Growers.
Wisconsin State Fair Announces Changes to Open Show Rotation

WEST ALLIS, Wis. – December 15, 2016 – Wisconsin State Fair officials are excited to announce an update to the 2017 Open Sheep Show schedule. The updated schedule will allow for more animals from throughout the Midwest to be exhibited at 2017 Wisconsin State Fair.

Rotation #1 (August 4-5-6) will feature the following breeds:
- AOB Wool
- Border Leicester
- Columbia
- Long Wool
- Targhee
- Dorset (moving to Rotation #1)
- Cheviot (moving to Rotation #1)
- Montadale (moving to Rotation #1)
- Oxford (moving to Rotation #1)

Rotation #2 (August 11-12-13) will feature the following breeds:
- AOB Meat
- Dorper (New Division)
- Hampshire – Fitted
- Hampshire – Slick Shorn (New Division)
- Suffolk
- Shropshire
- Southdown
- Tunis
- Wether Type

*Entry Info will be available at www.wistatefair.com after February 1, 2017

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The U.S. Targhee Sheep Association (USTSA) will again be offering a free registered Targhee Starter flock to a deserving youth at the 2017 USTSA National Show & Sale in Pierre, South Dakota, July 13th-15th. The winner must be present to receive the flock and will be awarded one (1) ewe lamb, one (1) yearling ewe, and one (1) brood ewe donated by members of the USTSA. Each animal will be a USTSA registered animal, and at least QR in Scrapie Codon 171 genotype. The winner will also receive a $150 credit for use toward purchase of additional animals at the 2017 sale.

Applications, due April 1st, are now available to download at www.ustargheesheep.org or by contacting Mardy Rutledge at the USTSA office (ustargheesheep@gmail.com or 702-292-5715). Any young person, ages 9-17, as of January 1, 2017, may apply. Applicants should possess a keen interest in the U.S. sheep industry, commitment to raising Targhee sheep over time, and a firm belief in the abilities of the breed. Applicants must demonstrate proof of care, facilities, and transportation. Aside from receiving the flock of sheep, the winning youth, will be paired with a Targhee breeder living near them who will act as a mentor. The association is committed to helping the winner succeed.

Targhee sheep are one of the few breeds developed in the United States at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho. Withstanding harsh environments and minimal human intervention, while still producing high quality lamb and wool are hallmark traits of Targhees. Mothering ability and gentle dispositions are additional positive traits of the breed.

The U.S. Targhee Sheep Association believes in the future. The success the program has had thus far has only affirmed it is the right thing to do for young people. This year we plan to do the same again. Please pass the word along to a young person you know. Visit the USTSA website at www.ustargheesheep.org for more information.

The Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association will again be giving away a starter flock of three Targhee ewes in 2017 to a lucky Wisconsin youth. Applicants must be aged 12 to 17 as of January 1, 2017, must be a resident of Wisconsin, and must not currently raise Targhee sheep. The winner must also be eligible and agree to exhibit their animals at both the 2017 Wisconsin State Fair open sheep show and Wisconsin Junior State Fair sheep show. The winner will receive a combination of ewe lambs, yearling ewes and/or brood ewes, and take ownership of the animals before any 2017 State Fair entry deadlines.

The Targhee breed has a long history in Wisconsin, and the purpose of this program is to promote growth and visibility of the breed along with promoting youth involvement and education within the breed. Applications are available online at both the US Targhee Sheep Association website (http://www.ustargheesheep.org/) and the A&J Nevens Livestock website (http://myplace.frontier.com/~jrnevens/), and are due no later than April 1, 2017. For more information or questions, please contact Leslie & Jeff Nevens at 608-592-7842, or AandJNevensLivestock@frontier.com.
4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl & Skillathon Contest

The Livestock Quiz Bowl will be held on Saturday, March 4, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Animal Sciences Building. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. and the competition begins at 9:30. The Livestock Quiz Bowl is a quiz competition where all the questions are about beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat topics and students use a buzzer in order to answer the questions. Teams compete in a double elimination format by giving oral answers to questions posed by a moderator. Each match has both an individual and toss-up question round. The winning 4-H senior team will represent Wisconsin at the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl competition in Omaha, NE at the AKSARBEN Livestock Exhibition.

The Skillathon contest is made up of a written quiz and learning stations such as breed identification, feed identification, equipment identification as well as some team activities such as demonstrating evaluation skills. The top Senior level 4-H team will represent Wisconsin at the National 4-H Skillathon Contest, held each fall in Louisville at the 2017 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY in November.

Competition in Quiz Bowl & Skillathon encourages members to develop a more complete knowledge of animals and related subjects. The competitions provide an educational program for all project members, including those who may not own a project animal, and provides a way to develop self-confidence. These programs are a great parallel to some similar programs that breed associations and other organizations conduct.

Resource materials including the 2017 Quiz Bowl Handbook; 2017 Livestock Skillathon Resource Handbook; 2017 Livestock Skill NR; 2017 Contest Registration Form – PDF fillable; plus Tips In Wool Judging and Animal Evaluation Sheet are available online at fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock. Registrations are due to Bernie O’Rourke by February 24. Cost is $10 per youth and due at time of registration. Contact: bernie.orourke@uwex.edu

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2017 All-American Junior Sheep Show Comes to Wisconsin!

The 24th Annual All American Junior Show will be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin on June 29 – July 2, 2017. The All-American Show typically hosts over 2,000 head of sheep shown by over 350 exhibitors from throughout the nation. Even though many awards are given out over the course of the weekend the show is designed for and focuses on a fun-filled and educational weekend for junior exhibitors and their families. Exhibitors can participate in many events besides the breeding sheep and market lambs shows, events include a 3-on 3 basketball tournament, pizza party, skill-a-thon, judging contest, ice cream social, lamb camp for novice showman, wool show, Saturday night picnic, promotional contests, individual and team showmanship competitions and a scholarship program. As the host of this year’s event, Wisconsin will need many volunteers to help make this show a success. Although preliminary planning has begun, the Wisconsin host committee is still welcoming volunteers to its ranks. The committee has been meeting via conference call and is planning a tour of the Alliant Energy Center facility later this spring. Anyone who would like to volunteer should e-mail Jill Alf at alfhamp@centurytel.net to be put on the committee’s email communication list.

Youth interested in exhibiting at this year’s event should go to the All-American Junior Show website at http://www.countrylovin.com/AAJSS/index.html. The tentative entry deadline is May 27. Detailed 2017 information will be posted very soon. Hotel room block information is already posted. If you would like to be put on the exhibitor entry information mailing list please email Deb Hopkins at ccdcdorset@cox.net or info@allamericanjuniorshow.com.

Rock County Producers Gaining Numbers

The Rock County Sheep Producers (RCSP), which reorganized in the spring of 2016, reports that there are now over thirty five families in the organization. A summer meeting was held at the Tim and Beth Miller Farm to elect officers. Jeoff Stevens was elected President; Brandon Knutson, Vice-President; Aaron Bennett, Secretary; and Brian Lux, Treasurer. Directors include Mark Utzig, Matt Scheaffer, and Ruth Ehlen. Nick Baker, UWEX-Rock County Agent and Tim Miller are advisors.

Actions taken at a RCSP cookout in October included creating a Youth Sheep Scholarship of $250 for graduating high school seniors as part of the Rock County agri-business scholarships program; supporting the funding of the Rock County 4-H sheep show judge to a minimum of $250 and repairing the scales for weighing of lambs at the fair.

A meeting of the RCSP will be held on February 19 at the Craig Center, Rock Co. 4-H fairgrounds. Educational program topics will include; lambing barn tips, and selecting a market lamb for the meat animal show & sale. A light lunch and door prizes will be available. For details contact Jeoff Stevens at 608 751-2539.
ASI Supports Perdue as Secretary of Ag

In a letter to the leadership of the Senate Agriculture Committee, American Sheep Industry Association President Burton Pfliger wrote the following:

“ASI advocates for the nation’s 88,000 farm and ranch families that produce America’s lamb and wool. On behalf of these members and producers, we enthusiastically write in support of the confirmation of former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue and urge your support for his confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

During his term as Governor of the State of Georgia, Perdue brought common sense and sound business acumen to state government. His background of service to our country and his educational background as a practicing veterinarian gives our members and sheep producers throughout the country confidence he will understand the needs of agriculture and rural America as head of the USDA.

America’s sheep producers continue a strong tradition of supporting wildlife habitat, natural resources and open space across the country, enabled by careful resource management while grazing our flocks on private lands and federal grazing allotments, allotments managed in part by the USDA’s Forest Service. Our members support rural communities, the tax base and local businesses, all while providing safe domestic food and fiber. From the farm and ranch to the retail level, the sheep industry has a total annual economic impact of $4.4 billion, and supports nearly 98,000 sheep-industry related jobs. Unfortunately, this significant economic impact has been threatened by the Forest Service’s poor decisions to shutdown multi-generation family grazing allotments. Equally concerning is the proposed abandonment of the nation’s sole sheep research station under the USDA’s Agriculture Research Service.

We believe, that if confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture, Gov. Perdue will support a vibrant rural economy. Important components of that rural economy are a robust predator management program through USDA’s Wildlife Services, support for the critical work carried out through the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, strong international animal health safeguards, the reliance on sound science in international trade, and true multi-use management of federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service.”

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Wisconsin Association Awards $1,000 to Southdown Futurity Winners

Rio, WI - The Wisconsin Southdown Association (WSA) announced the winners of the $1,000 Jackpot the association offered in conjunction with the 2016 Wisconsin Southdown Stars Sale. Fall and Spring ewe lambs purchased in this sale were eligible for the jackpot when the youth participated in the American Southdown Breeders Association (ASBA) “Pot ‘O Gold” futurity.

A fall ewe purchased by Jaleigh Oldenburg, Mulhall, OK and spring ewe lamb purchased by Hannah Schultz, Fort Atkinson, WI were the highest placing animals in the ASBA Futurity purchased in the Wisconsin Southdown Stars Sale in their respective age groups. Oldenburg was awarded $570 and Schultz $430 in the Wisconsin Jackpot. These awards were in addition to the money awarded to Oldenburg and Schultz by the ASBA.

Enthusiasm is growing in Wisconsin for the “Pot ‘O Gold” Futurity as more Wisconsin junior members participated in the ASBA Futurity in 2016 than any other year. WSJA members who competed in 2016 included Kyliegha Daniels, Andrew Formo, Caleb Formo, Dylan Klug, Isaac Kohlman, Carson Lobdell, Casey Lobdell and Hannah Schultz. Kyliegha Daniels of Poynette won the ASBA Fall Futurity and Carson Lobdell of Darlington won the ASBA Ewe Lamb Futurity. Five of the top eight ewe division placings were won by Wisconsin youth.

The American Southdown Breeders Association established the “Pot O’ Gold” Youth Futurity Program to provide an incentive-based award system for youth to encourage and reward high quality purchases at ASBA sanctioned sales. Complete results for the futurity can be found at www.southdownsheep.org.

The Wisconsin Southdown Association will be holding its 2017 Southdown Stars Sale & Symposium on Saturday, April 22nd. The event will again feature a $1,000 jackpot as well as a high quality set of Southdowns for sale, educational sessions for youth and adults and an opportunity to network with other Southdowns breeders. Watch the WSA website (www.wisconsinsouthdowns.com) or the association’s social media pages for details closer to the event.

If you are unable to visit the association’s website and need more details on the event, please contact WSA President, Dan Smerchek at (715) 347-1957 or dsmerchek@northernlakesvet.com.

Hannah Schultz (left) of Fort Atkinson, WI, and Jaleigh Oldenburg, Mulhall, OK, were winners in the 2016 ASBA “Pot ‘O Gold” Youth Futurity Program that encourages and rewards high quality purchases at ASBA sanctioned sales.

2017 Wisconsin Southdown Stars Sale and Starter Ewe Program

Rio, WI, January 24, 2017

The Wisconsin Southdown Stars Sale and Symposium will be held on April 22nd, 2017 at the UW Agriculture Research Center Public Events building, Arlington, WI. Details can be found at the Wisconsin Southdown Association’s website (www.wisconsinsouthdowns.com). Pictures of sale sheep will be posted through the Association’s website in an online catalog. Bidders who cannot attend the sale in person can bid online or by phone.

For those new to sheep or the breed, several short sessions will start the day and will teach basic information necessary to having a successful start with Southdowns; shearing/trimming, lamb feeding and health. There will be sheep onsite the day of the sale available to view prior to the sale starting promptly at Noon.

The 2017 “Starter Ewe Lambs” will be awarded to several Wisconsin youth at the event. Starter ewe lamb applications are due on March 1st and can be found at the website listed above. The Starter Ewe Lamb program is in its 8th year and has been an extremely successful way for youth who currently don’t have Southdowns to get a start in the breed. The youth are provided with a high quality ewe lamb including mentorship from the donating breeder. Southdowns have become one of the most popular breeds in Wisconsin for youth sheep projects due to the strong network of breeders and the Southdown’s moderate size, good temperament and that the breed are “slick sheared” by the youth before showing, minimizing the cost and time of fitting.

Sheep purchased at this sale in 2017 that are ASBA Futurity nominated will be eligible for a $1,000 cash jackpot sponsored by the WI Southdown Association which will be awarded at the All American Junior Show, which will be held in Madison, WI this year. The highest placing Yearling, Fall and Ewe Lamb at the 2017 All American Junior Show purchased in the 2017 sale will be eligible to compete for the jackpot money. Details about the jackpot and the All American Junior Show can be found on the Association’s website.

If you are unable to visit the website or need more details on the event or Starter Ewe Program, please contact WSA President, Dan Smerchek at dsmerchek@northernlakesvet.com
Wisconsin State Fair DNA/RFID Animal Identification

Alissa Grenawalt – Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program

Youth interested in showing market beef, sheep, swine, or breeding stock commercial heifers/crossbred gilts/wether type ewes and rams at the 2017 Wisconsin State Fair Junior Show will need to have their animal projects DNA/RFID identified by the State Fair eligibility deadlines listed below. This identification system allows animals which are DNA/RFID identified through the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) County and State Fair program to meet State Fair Identification requirements if the process is completed (all forms returned and samples on file) by the Wisconsin State Fair identification deadline postmarks listed.

**Market Beef, Sheep, and Swine DNA/RFID identification deadlines (postmark)**
- Beef: Monday – February 13, 2017
- Sheep: Monday – May 8, 2017
- Swine: Monday – May 8, 2017

*Breeding stock: Commercial heifers/crossbred gilts/wether type ewes & rams DNA/RFID identification deadline (postmark)*
- Wednesday – June 7, 2017

*Breeding stock being shown in the commercial, crossbred, or wether type divisions must have DNA submitted even if they are registered with a National Breed Organization (i.e. a registered Hereford gilt with registration papers being shown in the Crossbred Gilt division). Please Note: Breeding stock with National Breed Organization Registration Papers being shown in the breed divisions do not need to be DNA/RFID identified through WLIC. (i.e. a registered Angus Heifer with registration papers being shown in the Angus Division does not need to be DNA/RFID identified.)

**Market Animals Only:**
WLIC is coordinating a statewide DNA/RFID identification program for Wisconsin County and State Fairs.

*How do I get my animals identified?* DNA/RFID tag identification is only available by going to the WLIC website at www.wiid.org. Click on the text “Learn More” under “DNA Program” (lower left-hand side). Print out, complete and mail the request form with payment to WLIC. Make sure DNA and required paperwork is returned to WLIC by the Wisconsin State Fair identification postmark deadlines listed above.

*How much will DNA/RFID identification cost?* $11 per animal identified for required DNA/RFID tag identification. If your animal has an existing 840 RFID ear tag you can purchase and submit a DNA envelope separately for $6.00. Be sure to list the existing RFID ear tag number on the paperwork and DNA submission.

*Will my County DNA/RFID tag qualify for Wisconsin State Fair?* Wisconsin State Fair will accept all DNA/RFID samples submitted through WLIC by the Wisconsin State Fair identification deadline postmark. Samples received after the Wisconsin State Fair identification deadline postmark will be accepted; however, the animal associated with the samples will have limited State Fair eligibility. Visit the WLIC website (www.wiid.org) to verify which counties are participating in the statewide DNA/RFID identification program.

*Should I notify Wisconsin State Fair that my animal has been DNA/RFID identified?* You do not have to notify Wisconsin State Fair at time of identification. Wisconsin State Fair will receive all animal identification documentation from WLIC after the Wisconsin State Fair DNA/RFID identification postmark deadlines. Potential exhibitors are required to submit their Fair entries (online or paper) prior to the June entry deadlines by entering directly with Wisconsin State Fair. DNA/RFID identification is not your entry to the Fair.

*What if my County is not participating in the statewide DNA/RFID program?* No problem! Request Wisconsin State Fair DNA/RFID identification through WLIC. Make sure DNA and required paperwork is returned to WLIC by the Wisconsin State Fair identification deadline postmark listed above. If your county is not participating check with them for their requirement deadlines.

Questions related to the DNA/RFID identification process contact: WLIChelpdesk@wiid.org – 888.808.1910. Questions related to Wisconsin State Fair or entry procedures contact: entryoffice@wistatefair.com or 414.266.7000.
Calendar of Events - Winter 2017


February 24-26 • Sheep in the City Getaway, Comfort Suites Milwaukee Airport 6362 South 13th Street, Oak Creek, WI 53154. Email tink@villagespinners.com or Village Spinners Facebook page.

March 1 • Application Deadline: Wisconsin Southdown Association 2017 Southdown Starter Ewe Program, Kelly Vierck, rosheilouthdowns@gmail.com Applications at www.wisconsinsouthdowns.com

March 11 • Annual Meeting – Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, UW-Madison Arlington Agricultural Research Station Public Events Facility, Arlington, WI. wisbc@centurytel.net

March 11 • Arlington Sheep Day, UW-Madison Arlington Agricultural Research Station. wisbc.com or wisbc@centurytel.net

March 11 • Soil Health Pasture Walk, Asfakens Farm, S154 Wiese Road, La Valle, WI. 2-4 p.m. Registration Free (Lunch $10) Southwest Badger RC&D. RSVP by March 1 608 732-1202 Info: www.swbadger.org

March 11 • Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers Sheep Day, Springfield, IL. Info: Jane Zeien, 815 544-9582 or jzcci@aol.com

March 18 • ISBA Shearing School. Contact Duane Klinkworth @ 715-471-0403 or 715-286-4157.

March 18 • Spring Ahead Livestock Educational Sessions/ Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association Annual Meeting, UW-Madison Arlington Public Events Bldg. www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com Email: alfhamp@centurytel.net

March 23-25 • Threaded Streams Fiber Arts Trail, Grand Opening Weekend, Baraboo-Portage-Lodi-Prairie du Sac. Information: midwestfiberartstrails.org/threaded-streams-fiber-arts-trail

April 2 • Spring Show Lamb and Goat Sale – University of Wisconsin-River Falls – For information contact John or Holly Bazille jhjkfarm@yahoo.com 715-684-9529

April 20 • Advertising Deadline: Spring Issue Wisconsin Shepherd Contact: Lynn Crooks Advertising alcrooks00@gmail.com com 608 223-6817

April 22 • Wisconsin Southdown Stars Sale and Symposium, UW-Madison Arlington Research Center. www.wisconsinsouthdowns.com

April 28-30 • Wisconsin Alpaca & Fiber Fest, Washington County Fairgrounds, West Bend, WI. www.wisconsinalpacafiberfest.com

May 1 • Entry Deadline: WLBA Spring Preview Show www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com Email: alfhamp@centurytel.net

May 6-7 • Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. www.sheepandwool.org

May 15 • Registration Deadline: WLBA Livestock Show Camp. www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com Email: alfhamp@centurytel.net

May 20-21 • 2017 Spring Fiber Fling, McHenry County Fair Association, 11900 Country Club Road, Woodstock, IL, 815 338-5315 www.mchenrycountyfair.com

May 27-28 • Northern Show Circuit Lamb and Goat Show, Pierce County Fairgrounds. Contact: John or Holly Bazille jhjkfarm@yahoo.com 715-684-9529 https://www.facebook.com/northernshowcircuit/ or email NorthernShowCircuit@gmail.com

May 28-27 • Great Lakes Fiber Show - Great Lakes Show & Sale, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster, OH, info@greatlakesfibershow.com or www.bannersheepmagazine.com

June 3 • Spring Preview Show, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com

June 10-11 • WLBA Show Camp, Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis, WI. www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com

June 10-11 • Fiber on the Farm, Silver Creek Farm No1897 County Road M Watertown, WI www.fiberonthefarm.com

June 16-17 • American Polypay Sheep Association National Sale & Membership Meeting, Berrien Co. Youth Fairgrounds, Berrien Springs, MI http://www.countrylovin.com/polypay/index.html, email asregistry@gmail.com

June 17 • 2017 Interstate Livestock Show, Polk Country Fair Park, St. Croix Falls, WI. (A show camp will be held on Friday, June 16)

June 17-18 • Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival, Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center, Iowa State University, 2508 Mortensen Road, Ames, IA. Contact Regina, gina.frahm@gmail.com or www.iowasheepandwoolfestival.com

June 29-July 2 • 24th Annual All American Junior Show, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Email Judy Schambow at hightp@hughes.net. All American Junior Show website/show information: www.countrylovin.com/AAJS/index.html

July 13 • Advertising Deadline: Summer Issue Wisconsin Shepherd Contact: Lynn Crooks Advertising alcrooks00@gmail.com com 608 723-6817

July 28-29 • Center of the Nation NSIP Sale

July 31 • Entry Deadline: WLBA Summer Spectacular. www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com Email: alfhamp@centurytel.net

August 3-13 • Wisconsin State Fair, Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis. www.wistatefair.com

August 3-13 • Wisconsin Wool Works! Wisconsin State Fair Park Sheep Barn. Consignment information: Carol Black carol@ewesfulgifts.com 920 296-0326.

August 15 • Entry/Registration Deadline – Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com wisbc@centurytel.net

August 16-20 • Michigan Fiber Fest (Workshops 16-19, Festival 18-20) Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, MI. www.michiganfiberfestival.info or 269 948-2497.

September 7-10 • Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com
September 7-10 • Wisconsin Wool Works! Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Consignment info: Carol Black, 920 296-0326 or carol@ewesfulgifts.com

September 9 • Wisconsin State Make It With Wool Competition, Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Contact: Wynn Wittkopf, jwwittkopf@core.com 262 370-1433.

September 9 • Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op Used

Equipment Auction, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI Contact: Ryan Bingen, ryan.bingen@gmail.com or 262 339-9816 or www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

October 19 • Advertising Deadline: Fall Issue Wisconsin Shepherd Contact: Lynn Crooks Advertising alcrooks00@gmail.com 608 723-6817

October 31 – November 16 • North American International Livestock Exposition, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY www.livestockexpo.org

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