THE Wisconsin Shepherd

Summer 2018

A publication of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative

The Wisconsin Shepherd is a quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, a non-profit organization dedicated to the diverse interests of the Wisconsin sheep industry. Inquiries about WSBC and address changes for WSBC and *The Wisconsin Shepherd* should be directed to Jill Alf, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, WSBC, 7811 Consolidated School Road, Edgerton, WI 53534; 608-868-2505 or *wisbc@centurytel.net*.

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President's Message

Greetings fellow members of the WSBC.

I find myself writing this message from the cozy confines of a "camp" chair, inside a sheep tent that's set up in the middle of a field, at a local community Ag Fair. Across the way, the poultry and rabbit shows have already begun. Dairy and beef animals are being prepared for their shows later today, swine exhibitors are putting their final touches on the project as their chance to show off their hard work is about to begin. Sheep exhibitors, they show tomorrow, so they're off watching the other shows, assisting their fellow exhibitors, or, based on the groups of kids cantering past my chair, reigniting friendships that many times will turn out to last a lifetime. The day started with a mandatory exhibitor meeting and I know my hearing isn't as good as it once was, but I don't believe I heard a single noise from the exhibitors in the stands as they gave respect to those speaking. No matter what species or segment of the industry you're in, I think you would be hard-pressed to find this in many places outside of the agricultural community, and for that I'm thankful our family is able to be a part of it.

Speaking of fairs and festivals, The Wisconsin State Fair is just around the corner and if you make it to the fair, be sure you stop in the sheep barn and visit the Wisconsin Wool Works booth. Consignors from all across the state use this opportunity to introduce the public to the amazing qualities of wool and to market their products through the booth. A great opportunity for all! A huge thank you to the group that makes the WWW booth a reality.

Shortly following that, the ever growing and ever popular Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival will be upon us. This is our signature event encompassing all aspects of the sheep and wool industry, and if it hasn't been, should be on your schedule to attend. The group of volunteers who make the WSWF happen is second to none and they amaze me every year with their new ideas and commitment it takes to keep it being a premier event of its kind in the nation. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op, thank you to all those who have already volunteered time/energy for this year's festival. Speaking of volunteers it's never too late to find a spot to offer assistance. Feel free to contact the festival office and we'll gladly work with you to make you part of the team.

Unfortunately, we faced some challenges this year being able to incorporate as much producer education in the festival as we have in the past, and as we would have liked. Space requirements for other events, timing and manpower didn't allow some long-standing items to remain as part of the 2018 festival. With that said, the board is looking into some producer education this fall and would love to partner with a sheep producer to host a fall field day. Please let us know if you have any interest in this idea or topics you would like to see presented.

I'd like to take a quick minute to address some of the concerns raised in the last few issues of The Wisconsin Shepherd. The board takes the business of the cooperative very seriously and with good faith that we are working our best on its behalf. We value input from the membership, and in this case a group met with some members to discuss some concerns they had. We strive to continue to work not only to improve our function as a board, but also make the WSBC the best it can be. It's both challenging and rewarding volunteering to be on the board and I encourage you to give it some thought. If you have ideas you would like to discuss, contact a current board member or use the coop's email address. We plan to meet in October and once again early winter at a minimum.

Back to the fair, it's really heating up, and I don't mean the competition - those are usually the first memories to fade - it's getting hot outside. If you are able to find yourself out and about this summer, whether a fair, farmers market, fiber show, festival, WWW booth, take every opportunity you can to promote the sheep and wool industry in the great state of Wisconsin.

See you at the festival!

Alan Thorson, WSBC President

NSIP Ultrasound School Draws From 6 States

The National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) Carcass Ultrasound Certification School was held on June 11-12 at the UW-Arlington Sheep Unit. Participants from six states were enrolled in the clinic which was coordinated by Arlington Sheep Unit Manager Todd Taylor and Cody Hiemke, Stoughton, WI.

Crystal Retzlaff, a Texel breeder from Clintonville, WI, joined Lisa Paskey and Mark Roembke, along with ten other producers participating in the two-day NSIP Ultrasound Certification School. Paskey is a Suffolk breeder from Cottage Grove, WI and Roembke raises Hampshires near Cedarburg, WI.

Dallas McDermott is a commercial ultrasound technician from Johnston, IA and took part in the recent Arlington scanning certification school. Carcass data submitted to NSIP must be collected by a certified scanner approved at a NSIP Certification School. The first steps to certification require the participant to scan twenty lambs twice, with the data cross-referenced with that of two certified scanners to determine the Standard Error of Prediction. Persons who achieve certification status must be re-certified every five years.

Alison Crane is an Assistant Professor of Sheep Nutrition and Reproduction and the Sheep Extension Specialist at Kansas State, Manhattan, KS, and was one of two instructors at the June 11-12 NSIP Ultrasound Scanning School at Arlington. Lisa Surber of Bozeman, MT was the lead instructor. Surber has a private consulting and scanning business and is the Targhee breed representative to the National Sheep Improvement Program board.

The deadline for copy and ads for the 2018 Fall Issue of the Wisconsin Shepherd is Thursday, October 18. Please submit all copy to rbblack@powercom.net and advertising to alf.brittany@gmail.com .

WISCONSIN SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL — September 7-9

(P) *Pre–registration required for these classes and activities. Check Map for locations.*

THURSDAY

NOTE: On Thursday the festival is open ONLY to registered Wonders of Wool fiber arts students, vendors and sheep exhibitors.

8:00 – 3:00	**Registration Open**–Pick–up **pre–paid** Camping Permits ..... Lobby – Activity Center
8:00 – 4:00	Jefferson Fair Park Office Open Purchase Camping Permits ..... Activity Center
8:00 – 6:00	**VENDOR SET UP – *VENDOR AREAS CLOSED TO PUBLIC!***
9:00 – 4:00	Wonders of Wool Fiber Arts Classes **(P)**
4:00 – 9:00	MSSBA Sheep Check–in ..... Sheep Barn

FRIDAY

Gates Open: 7:00 a.m. – Admission charged

7:00 a.m.	Stock Exchange Open ..... (See Map)
7:30	**Registration Open** Pick up **pre–paid** Camping Permits ..... Lobby – Activity Center
7:30–9:30	Check–in – MSSBA Fleece Show ..... West Exhibit Building
All Day	MSSBA Sheep Check–in ..... Sheep Barn
8:00 – 4:00	Jefferson Fair Park Office Open–Purchase Camping Permits ..... Activity Center
8:00	Crook & Whistle Stock Dog Trial Open ..... West Field
	Silent Auction (Donations accepted until 9:00 a.m. Sat.) ..... Activity Center
9:00 – 4:00	Wonders of Wool Fiber Arts Classes **(P)**
9:00 – 4:00	Wool Handling School **(P)** ..... East Exhibit Building
10:00	*Judging* – MSSBA Fleece Show ..... West Exhibit Building
10:00	Photo Contest – Entries open for viewing ..... Activity Center
10:00 – 6:00	***COUNTRY STORE OPEN***
Noon – 5:00	Open & Shetland Skein Contest Entry Check–in ..... Activity Center
	Design Challenge Entry Check–in ..... Activity Center
	Youth Design Challenge Check–in ..... Activity Center
1:00 – 4:00	Silent Auction of MSSBA Fleeces ..... West Exhibit Building
3:00 – 6:00	Gotland Fleece Show – Check–in ..... West Exhibit Building
3:00 – 8:00	Open – Junior Fleece Show Check–in ..... West Exhibit Building
6:00 – 7:30	Open & Junior Sheep Check–in ..... Sale Arena

SATURDAY

Gates Open: 7:00 a.m. – Admission charged

Jefferson Fair Park Office – Open 8:00 – Noon

7:00 a.m.	Stock Exchange Open ..... (See Map)
7:00 – 9:00	Fleece Show – Open, Junior Entries – Check–in ..... West Exhibit Building
7:00 – 9:00	Open Sheep Show Check–in ..... Sale Arena
7:30	Crook & Whistle Stock Dog Trial ..... West Field
7:30	**Registration Open** Pick up **pre–paid** Camping Permits ..... Lobby–Activity Center
8:00 – 10:00	MSSBA Sheep Entries Check–in ..... Sheep Barn
8:00	Hall of Breeds ..... Indoor Arena
	Newborn Lambs! ..... Indoor Arena
	Photo Contest ..... Activity Center
8:00 – 9:00	Make It With Wool – Registration & Hospitality ..... Lobby – Activity Center
8:00 – 3:00	Skillathon ..... East Exhibit Building (south end)
8:00 – 5:00	Open & Shetland Skein Contest Entry Check–in ..... Activity Center
	Design Challenge Entry Check–in ..... Activity Center
	Youth Design Challenge Check–in ..... Activity Center
8:00 – 5:00	Junior Sheep Show Check–in ..... Sale Arena
9:00 – 6:00	***COUNTRY STORE OPEN***
9:00	Art Under Foot Hooked Rug Exhibit Open ..... Activity Center
	Warm & Woolly Wool Quilts ..... Activity Center
	Silent Auction – Deadline for donations! ..... Activity Center
9:00 – 11:00	*Judging* – Make It With Wool ..... Activity Center
9:00 – Noon	Entry Check–in – Poster Contest ..... Activity Center
	Wool Handling School **(P)** ..... East Exhibit Building
9:00 – 3:00	Silent Auction – Bidding ..... Activity Center
9:00 – 4:00	Wonders of Wool Fiber Arts Classes **(P)**

Schedule of Events

SATURDAY continued

	Wooly U (P) ..... Wonders of Wool Bldg 1
9:30	*Judging* – Open & Junior Fleece Shows ..... West Exhibit Building
10:00	*Judging* – Open Sheep Shows – Meat & Wool Breeds ..... Sale Arena
10:00 – 3:00	Private Treaty Sales – MSSBA Fleeces ..... West Exhibit Building
10:00 – 4:00	Ma & Pa *(History comes alive!)* ..... Indoor Arena
10:00 & 1:00 & 3:00	Shearing Demonstrations ..... Indoor Arena
Noon	WSBC Scholarship Winners Announced ..... Activity Center
Noon	Consignments Close – Used Equipment Auction ..... Warm–up Arena
Noon	Donations Close – Shepherd's Auction ..... Warm–up Arena
12:30	Judging – Midwest Shetland Sheep Breeders Show ..... Sheep Barn
2:00	Shepherd's & Used Equipment Auction ..... Warm–up Arena
	Make It With Wool – Awards & *Best of Wisconsin Style Show* ..... Activity Center
	Drawing for the MIWW Quilt Raffle ..... Activity Center
2:00 – 4:00	MSSBA Fleece Show – Silent Auction ..... West Exhibit Building
	NEW! Gotland Fleece Show – Silent Auction ..... West Exhibit Building
5:00	Results Posted – Poster Contest ..... Activity Center
6:00 – 7:00	Silent Auction of Open–Junior Fleeces ..... West Exhibit Building
6:00	Lead Line & Costume Class Competition ..... Sale Arena

SUNDAY

Gates Open 7:00 a.m. – Admission charged

Jefferson Fair Park Office CLOSED – Go to Registration

7:00 a.m.	Stock Exchange Open ..... (See Map)
7:30	Crook & Whistle Stock Dog Trial ..... West Field
7:30	**Registration Open** – Pick up **pre–paid** Camping Permits ..... Lobby – Activity Center
7:45	Youth Judging Contest ..... Beef Barn
8:00 – 3:00	Photo Contest ..... Activity Center
8:00 – 9:00	Check–in – Junior Sheep Show ..... Sale Arena
	Weigh–in, Market Lambs ..... Sheep Barn
	Weigh–in. Carcass Competition – Pens of 3 ..... Indoor Arena
8:00 – Noon	Skillathon ..... East Exhibit Building (south end)
8:30 – 3:00	Fleece Sale – Private Treaty Open, Junior Fleeces ..... West Exhibit Building
8:00 – 3:30	Hall of Breeds ..... Indoor Arena
	Newborn Lambs! ..... Indoor Arena
8:30 – 3:30	Wonders of Wool Fiber Arts Classes **(P)**
9:00	*Judging* – Carcass Competition – Pen of Three ..... Indoor Arena
	Judging – Open & MSSBA Skein Competition ..... Activity Center
	Judging – Design Challenge ..... Wonders of Wool Building 1
9:30	*Judging* – Junior Youth Sweepstakes Showmanship
	Junior Breeding Sheep Show to follow ..... Sale Arena
9:00–1:30	***NEW!*** Sheep to Shawl Competition ..... Activity Center
9:00 – 2:00	MSSBA Fleece Show – Private Treaty Sale ..... West Exhibit Building
	NEW! Gotland Fleece Show – Private Treaty Sale ..... West Exhibit Building
9:00 – 3:30	*Art Under Foot* Hooked Rug Exhibit ..... Activity Center
	Warm & Woolly Wool Quilts ..... Activity Center
9:30 – 3:30	***COUNTRY STORE OPEN***
10:00	Special Presentation – The Future of Fiber Arts ..... West Exhibit Building
10:30	*Judging* – Market Lamb Showmanship – Show to follow ..... Sheep Barn
10:00 – 3:00	Fiber Arts Demonstrations ..... Wonders of Wool Building 1
10:00 – 3:00	Ma & Pa *History comes alive!* ..... Indoor Arena
11:00 & 1:00	Shearing Demonstrations ..... Indoor Arena
Noon	Farm to Table – Cooking With the Chefs! ..... Activity Center
3:30	Festival Closes – *Thanks for coming and have a safe trip home!*

Mark your calendars for 2019 – September 6-8

Used Equipment Auction & Shepherd's Auction

2:00 p.m. Saturday ***Warm-up Arena***

ONE BIG EVENT!

It all happens on Saturday, starting at 2 p.m. in the Warm Up Arena at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. Both auctions to be sold by Bob Johnson, Badger State Auctions. Now you don't need to be in two places at once! Get one buyer's number and bid often to support the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op youth education funds and your industry.

To Donate to the Shepherd's Auction

Go to www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Click on: Special Events - Shepherd's & Silent Auctions

Fill out donation form and submit or bring donated items to Warm Up Arena by 12:00 noon, Saturday, September 9.

Contact Ryan Bingen – 262 339-9816

ryan.bingen@gmail.com

To Consign to the Used Equipment Auction

Go to www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Click on: Special Events - Used Equipment Auction

Complete the consignment form and submit online or download consignment form and then bring consigned items to Warm Up Arena by 12:00 noon, Saturday.

Contact Ryan Bingen – 262 339-9816

ryan.bingen@gmail.com

USED EQUIPMENT AUCTION

This a great opportunity to buy or sell all types of equipment: feeders, scales, seeders, electric fencers, trimming stands, carders, water tanks, hand tools, small farm implements – you name it! Even items for the fiber arts such as spinning wheels, carders and looms!

SCHWANKE WINS WISCONSIN FFA SHEEP PRODUCTION AWARD

Waupun FFA member Emily Schwanke is the 2018 winner in Sheep Production. Schwanke's interest in sheep began at a young age, helping on her uncle's farm, caring for lambs each summer and showing through 4H once she was old enough. It sparked an interest, so in 2013 Emily worked out an agreement with her uncle to start her own flock, while working to barter expenses.

Today her flock includes 13 breeding ewes, which Emily feeds, waters and beds on a daily basis, while managing their records, breeding and medication as needed and helping with crops and weeding around the farm in exchange for feed. Schwanke continues to show her animals at the county fair and in 2017 she took first place in the fitting contest, amongst other awards. Emily's advisors are Tari Costello, Kris Beaver and Ryan Seichter. Fourteen state finalists in this award area received cash awards made possible by state-level sponsorship from Big Sky Suffolks, Waupaca FFA Chapter and Alumni and Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative.

Schwanke will find out this summer if she is selected as one of four national finalists. If selected, Emily will compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., in October. The four finalists will each receive a plaque and scholarship money thanks to national sponsorship by National FFA Foundation and National FFA Organization.

The Wisconsin FFA Convention celebrates the accomplishments of the students, advisors and supporters. It hosts over 3,000 members, advisors and guests, representing 251 local agricultural education programs. This year's convention was held June 11 to 14 at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall in Madison, Wis. The Wisconsin Association of FFA is a leading student organization due to the efforts of more than 21,173 students across that state. With a focus on premier leadership, personal growth and career success, students' FFA activities complement agricultural classroom instruction by giving them an opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge while gaining real-world experience. These activities are dependent on donor funding through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. For more information about Wisconsin FFA and the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, visit www.wisconsinffa.org or www.wisconsinffafoundation.org, become a fan of Wisconsin FFA Foundation on Facebook, or call 715-659-4807.

2018 Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative Committees

Annual Meeting & Recognition Banquet
Jill Alf, Alan Thorson

Carcass Contest
Alan Thorson, Co-Chairman
Brandon Knutson, Co-Chairman
Dr. David Thomas

Communication (Website-Facebook-Wisconsin Shepherd)
Debbie Petzel, Co-Chairman
Alan Thorson, Co-Chairman
Brittany Alf, Jill Alf, Bob Black
Carol Black, Stephanie Formo
Jeff Nevens

Membership Promotion
WSBC Board

Producer Education
WSBC Board, Cody Hiemke, Tim Miller, Warren O'Brion, Todd Taylor

Shepherd's Silent Auction
Etta Held, Richard & Sylvia Roembke
Sue Rupnow, Richard & Barb Schultz

Shepherd's Live Auction
Ryan Bingen, Chairman
Sue Rupnow

Used Equipment Sale
Ryan Bingen, Chairman
Jill Alf

Wisconsin State Fair Liaison
Barbara Bishop

Youth & Education/Scholarship
Debbie Petzel, Chairman
Jill Alf, Stephanie Formo
Jeff Nevens, Sue Rupnow
Alan Thorson, David Troxel

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival
Robert Black, Chairman
WSBC Board of Directors

Wisconsin Wool Works!
Carol Black, Manager
Jill Alf, Robert Black
Jeff Nevens, Sue Rupnow
Alan Thorson

WSBC Stock Exchange
Steve Bingen, Chairman
Todd Baumer, David Hammer
Elmer Held, Alan Thorson

Wisconsin Make It With Wool State Director
Wynn Wittkopf

American Sheep Industry Representatives
Doug Wilson, Keith Schultz

WI Livestock Breeders Assoc. Rep.
Jordan Alf

UK Judges Coming to Jefferson

The Midwest Shetland Sheep Breeders Association will be hosting Sue Thwaites, longtime Shetland breeder from Dorset, England, who will judge the MSSBA fleece show on Friday, September 7, in the West Exhibit Building at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. The MSSBA sheep show will be judged by Jean Curtis, Somerset, England, on Saturday, September 8 starting at 12:30 p.m. Curtis will also be doing the Shetland inspections and evaluations segment of the show on Friday beginning at 2:30 p.m. Both Curtis and Thwaites are longtime Shetland breeders.

Sue Thwaites (r.) is one of two UK judges coming to the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival to judge the Midwest Shetland Sheep Breeders fleece and sheep shows. Thwaites is a longtime Shetland breeder from Dorset, England.

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WVS

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  - Infectious disease testing (CAE, Johne's)
  - Parasitology lab

Sheep Dairy Association of Wisconsin News

Sheep dairy farmers, like others are focusing on getting first and second crop hay in the barns. Many of the producers and sheep milk cheese processors are spending their Saturdays and Sundays at farmer's markets promoting and selling farm product. It is a busy time of year.

This spring, SDAW was approved by the IRS as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The organization is also certified in the state of Wisconsin as a charitable organization. All donations now made to SDAW qualify as a charitable contribution.

Two of our members have new store fronts from which to sell and promote sheep dairy products among many other wonderful food items. When you are in the area, please stop in and visit these amazing places.

Landmark Creamery Provisions on the opening of their new storefront in **Belleville**, Wisconsin. The "Anna's" have done a great job of getting the word out with coverage from many of the Madison area papers and media outlets. https://www.cheeseandprovisions.com/

Jeanne Carpenter on the opening of **FireFly Coffeehouse and Artisan Cheese** in Oregon WI. The atmosphere is warm and cozy, the food and beverages are delicious and Jeanne is excited about the upcoming opening of the cheese counter. Check it out either in person or virtually. http://www.fireflycoffeehouse.com/

On the national scene, the Dairy Sheep Association of North America board and project manager continue to work with DHIA and GenOvis (Canada) to establish a viable milk production and animal genetic evaluation system. The end goal is to be able to calculate estimated breeding values that will ring relatively true across all participating flocks. Five farms have been identified to participate in a pilot project to test protocols and begin the collection of a baseline data.

Plans are well underway for the upcoming DSANA symposium, November 8-10 in Kansas City, MO. Check out the website for details.

Dairy Sheep Calendar of Events

August 5 – SDAW Summer Member and Supporter Picnic, Maple Hill Farm, Ladysmith

September 7-9 – Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, Jefferson WI. Come check out our display in the Activity Center. We'll also be working with Chef Jack Kaestner for the Saturday afternoon food demo.

September 18-19 – UW Center for Dairy Research Master Artisan Short Course: Sheep, Goat and Mixed Milk Cheeses, UW-Madison

November 3 – SDAW Annual Meeting (Place to be determined)

November 8-10 – DSANA Symposium, Marriot Country Club Plaza Kansas City, MO

For more information regarding any of the topics in this article, please contact Laurel Kieffer, SDAW Project Manager at kcf.laurel@tcc.coop .

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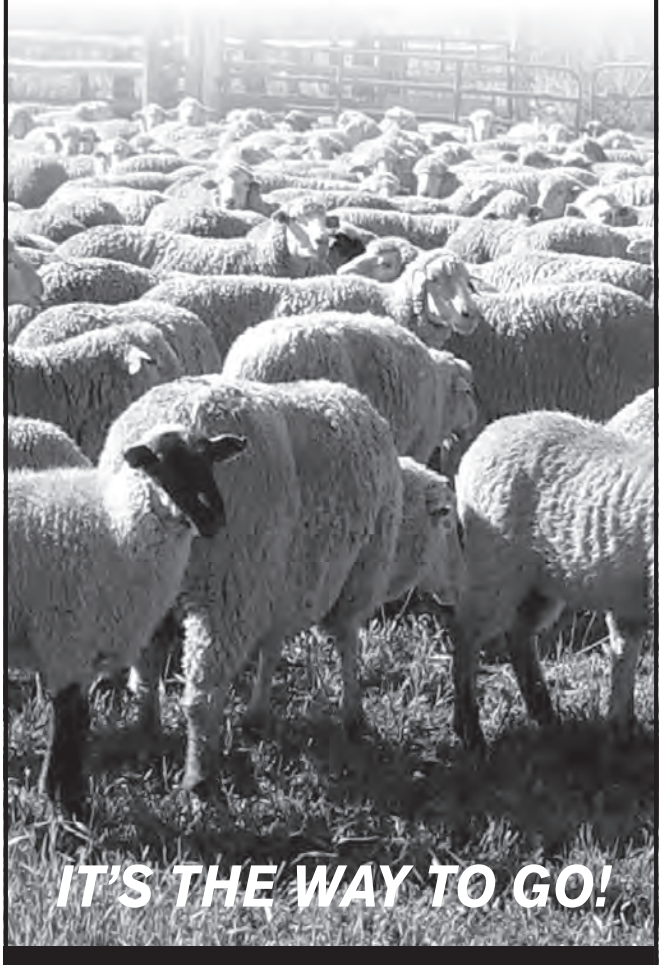

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please Call 800-362-3989, ext 131.

www.equitycoop.com

All American Celebrates 25 Years – *Debbie Petzel, Centuria, WI*

Indianapolis, IN - The All American Junior Sheep Show (AAJS) started in 1993 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IN with 6 breeds (Columbia, Polled and Horned Dorset, Hampshire, Montadale, Rambouillet and Southdown). In 1995 the event moved to the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin, IN, and it stayed there until they started to rotate the show into different regions starting with Sedalia, MO in 2002 (12 breeds at that show).

The 25th Anniversary of the AAJS was held July 5 - 8 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Sixty eight exhibitors from Wisconsin, representing many meat and wool breeds, were among the nearly 700 exhibitors that participated in the show with over 3200 head of sheep.

Along with the sheep shows, the kids took part in skillathons, judging contests, fleece shows and showmanship contests. Most exhibitors took part in the photo, poster, Power Point, logo, and essay contests as well. Total points from all the contests were compiled for Top Gun awards in each breed. The purpose of the All-American Junior Sheep Show is to provide a weekend vacation for youngsters raising sheep and their families. Social activities as well as competitive events are planned. Emphasis is being placed on meeting other youngsters and learning the attributes of all breeds of sheep. Promotional contests are designed to assist youngsters in developing marketing skills necessary for the Sheep Industry of the future. The show is scheduled to go to Kansas in 2019 and to Michigan in 2020.

Andy Nevens (l.), Lodi and Justin Taylor, Arlington, were Top Gun winners at the recent All American Junior Show held in Indianapolis, IN.

Over 700 kids from across the country took part in the 25th anniversary of the All-American Junior Show held in Indianapolis in early July. Among the sixty eight exhibitors from Wisconsin were Targhee banner winners: (l-r) Joe and Sam Tuttle, Drummond; Abby Stalbaum, Arlington; and Andy Nevens, Lodi.

CALLING ALL SHEEP TO SHAWL TEAMS!

The Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival is on track to add a new competition this year. The Sheep-to-Shawl Competition will be held on Sunday, September 9 in the Activity Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. Teams of up to eight people will compete in creating a shawl, from wool fleece to woven fabric, using traditional methods and equipment. They will prepare the fleece, spin the singles, ply the yarn, and weave a shawl in a four and a half hour time period.

One member of each team will be an educational liaison whose role will be to interact with the public and share information on the process of turning a fleece into a finished product. Finished shawls will be judged by a team of knowledgeable judges and cash prizes awarded to the top two teams. Prize sponsors are Henry and Roy Clemes from Clemes & Clemes, Inc. Pinole, CA, and Carol and Paul Wagner of Hidden Valley Farm and Woolen Mill, Valders, WI.

Teams may register on-line on the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival website, www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com. Deadline to register is Friday, August 24. For additional information, contact Deb Jones, Fiber Garden LLC, at deb@fibergarden.com. Start getting your teams together!

Wool Handling School

Friday – Saturday, September 7-8 **Pre-registration Required!**

Topics Covered

Wool Fiber Characteristics
Responsibility in Wool Production
(animal welfare)
Wool Contamination
Handling Practices
Shearing Setup
Shearing Demos
Board Skirting
Throwing Fleeces
Table Skirting
Fleece Preparation
Wool Science
and more!
Classroom and Lab Sessions

Photo by Woody Lane, Lane Livestock Services, Roseburg, OR

$75 per Person
Pre-register online at www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com
(Minimum 12 – Maximum 20 participants)

Sponsored by:
American Sheep Industry Association (ASI)
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University of Wisconsin-Madison Animal Science
Sheep and fleeces supplied by:
UW Arlington Sheep Unit
Shearing – David Kier, Eleva, WI

AMERICAN WOOL™

For more information:
Todd Taylor - Shepherd, UW Arlington Sheep Unit
608 846-5858 • toddtaylor@wisc.edu

HOW TO REGISTER

Go to: www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com
Click on CLASSES, then on WOOL HANDLING SCHOOL

1. Click on **REGISTER HERE**. (All registrations/payments are handled by ShoWorks.)
2. Once at ShoWorks, you will need to **CREATE AN ACCOUNT** (user name and password) as an **"exhibitor" – even if you have entered or registered in a previous year.**
3. **ORDER** - Once you have an entry in your shopping cart, you can save your progress and return at a later time. Returning users can sign in with user name and password. **NOTE - *You cannot sign up twice for the same class!***
4. **PAYMENT** - No saved registrations can be guaranteed unless payment is made. Payment must be made by credit card at the end of the registration process through our secure online system.
5. When you are finished registering, you'll receive an email confirmation. However, it is suggested that you **PRINT YOUR ORDER** in case your email confirmation does not go through.

Fencing Solutions For Graziers Workshop – August 25

Landowners and farmers in Southwest Wisconsin are invited to a workshop that teaches fencing solutions for grazing livestock and that will showcase multiple types of fences. "I use multiple types of fence on my ranch including barbed, temporary, and high tensile wire and wooden, plastic, and metal posts. We will take a hay ride around the farm to see the good, the bad, and the ugly, while our fencer will explain good fence construction" says Rod Ofte, owner of Willow Creek Ranch.

The workshop is part of the Mentorship Program for Future Livestock Farmers, which connects beginning livestock farmers to financial coaching, business mentorship, land, and training through the Southwest Badger RC&D Grazing Broker. The mentorship program is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The host is Rod Ofte, a fourth-generation farmer and rancher who raises 30 cow-calf pairs and finishes about fifty head of cattle on his family's 300- acre property. "Personally, as a veteran of the U.S. Army, I feel this is my calling. I believe what I'm doing on this farm is helping to revive rural America." says Rod, who also works part-time for The Pasture Project, an initiative run by the nonprofit Wallace Center, funded by the Walton Family Foundation. The project developed an Excel-based calculator to determine cost of production for each segment of beef production from cow-calf to finisher. During the workshop, Rod will show how he uses the calculator to plan his fencing investments.

Vernon County provides technical and financial assistance to set up fences for well-managed grazing, including some of the fence that will be toured during the workshop. County Conservationist Ben Wojahn will speak on the variety of programs available to farmers and landowners to help them build good fences. The "Fencing Solutions for Graziers" workshop is scheduled for August 25th, from 1:00 pm-5:00 pm at Willow Creek Ranch, E5930 Spring Coulee Rd, Coon Valley, WI. Dinner will be served from 4-5 pm thanks to the Wisconsin Grassfed Beef Co-op. The cost of the event is $20 and open to the public, though a RSVP is requested by August 22 to Robert Bauer at 608-732-1202. Southwest Badger members receive free admission, learn more at https://www.swbadger.org/membership.

Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working in the Southwest Wisconsin region. The organization's mission is to implement natural resource conservation and rural economic development in the area through education and best practices relating to agriculture, grassland, forests, and surface waters

Eleventh Annual

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Saturday, September 22, 2018

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Complimentary Lunch - Noon
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Interstate Livestock Show

The Interstate Livestock Clinic and Show held June 22 and 23 in St. Croix Falls drew nearly 200 entries and included a Friday Lamb Camp featuring a fitting and showing clinic and a feeding presentation. Exhibitors also took part in a judging competition led by UW-River Falls Professor Justin Luther.

The Skillathon at the recent Interstate Livestock Show held in St. Croix Falls was sponsored by Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative and covered sheep feeding practices, health care protocols, and general management knowledge. Skillathon winner (l-r) Jane Strand, Ann Boland, Courtney Glenna, RaeAnna Johnston, Cal Schultz and Josh Lindow.

Thinking Out Loud…

Sometimes it's worth taking a moment to consider why things got started in the first place. Like for instance, the Wisconsin Shepherd. I suppose we could get the celebration plans underway for the milestone anniversary of this venerable quarterly since the magazine will hit the ripe old age of thirty in January. On the other hand maybe we should first take a quick glance back at why the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op even contemplated its own publication at a time when the industry was already flush with its own ink.

Well, it was about communication: Between board and membership - and within Wisconsin's sheep industry. Your first editor was Woody Lane, who was part of the group of committed members and directors who made that first issue a reality and who, as then UW Extension Sheep Specialist, brought a unique connection with educational resources to the mix. He emphasized in his inaugural column that "information is a serious business," serious enough in 1989 but even more so in an age when the challenge of separating fact from fiction has grown exponentially.

The Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op president in 1989 was Larry Becker, a commercial producer from Montello, who emphasized in his first President's Column that "….the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op is *your* organization (italics his)." and then went on to say that "If you have questions or ideas for this organization, we would appreciate your comments." That was another reason for this magazine, inviting input and dialogue, which according to Webster is an exchange of ideas and opinions and which brings us back to communication.

The Wisconsin Shepherd is indeed your publication, your two-way avenue of communication for ideas and opinion, information and education that will hopefully strengthen your cooperative - and you as a sheep producer - for the foreseeable future. At least, that's the way I think it should work.

Bob Black, Editor (rbblack@powercom.net)

Parnee Harned

Blue Mounds/Madison, WI — Parnee Harneds' life was a tapestry woven into the fabric of Madison. She grew up on Lake Mendota, where she was a passionate sailor in the summer and stalwart iceboater in the winter. She would often row her father around the Bluff for his fishing excursions.

She enjoyed many friends in Maple Bluff, as well as those she attended Central High with. Parnee met her future husband, Donne Harned, at Central High. They were married after his service in the Korean War flying F-51s. Together they had five children. Often while Donne was "away flying" Parnee held down the fort and in doing so did a superb job in caring for the younger kids, as well foiling the mischievous plots of her teenagers. She could always be counted on when needed.

Parnee and Donne longed to live in the country, so they bought a farm in Blue Mounds. Parnees' natural inclination was to add a horse and pony—she was an avid horsewoman since she was a little girl—as well as adding some sheep and chickens to the mix. She soon found that she had a knack for sheep husbandry and through the years created a prize winning flock of Columbia sheep. Her ewes and rams won several reserve and grand champions prizes at the Dane County and Wisconsin State Fairs.

Parnee Harned was a woman for the ages. She could be gracious and elegant in a fine evening dress and few minutes later she could feed and water her sheep. She will be greatly missed. The light she brought to the world shall not dim, as her memory will always burn bright through her children and grandchildren. Parnee passed on June 13, 2018, at the age of 91. There will be a private burial and a celebration of life to be announced at a later date.

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Calendar of Events – Summer 2018

Aug. 2-12 • Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, WI www.wistatefair.com Entry Deadlines – Open & Junior Sheep Exhibitors, Mailed/Emailed entries, See June 6, 13 and 27 calendar listings.

Aug. 2-12 • Wisconsin Wool Works! Wisconsin State Fair Sheep Barn. Consignment Information: Carol Black, carol@ewesfulgifts.com or 920-296-0326

August 11 • Eastern NSIP Sale, 1:00 p.m., Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster, OH. Entry Info/Catalog: www.nsip.org

August 5 • SDAW Summer Member and Supporter Picnic, Maple Hill Farm, Tammy & Brian Michielson, N4009 Townline Road, Ladysmith, WI. Information: kcf.laurel@tcc.coop

August 15 • Entry/Registration Deadline – Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com Office: 608-868-2505 (after 5:00 eve.) wisbc@centurytel.net

August 15 • Photo Contest Entry Deadline – Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op. Debbie Petzel, 612-578-1528 or dspetzel@gmail.com. Entry Information: www.wisbc.com or www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Aug. 18 • 10th Annual Wisconsin Summer Spectacular, Marshfield, WI www.wisconsinlivestockbreeders.com or 608-868-2505, email alfhamp@centurytel.net

Aug. 21-26 • Central Wisconsin State Fair, Marshfield, WI www.centralwisconsinstatefair.com

August 25 • Fencing Solutions For Graziers Workshop, Willow Creek Ranch, E5930 Spring Coulee Road, Coon Valley, WI. 1 – 5 pm. RSVP to 608-732-1202 by Aug. 22. $20 includes dinner (free to SW Badger RC&D members). www.swbadger.org

Sept. 1 • Pasture Walk, Great River Graziers & Kickapoo Grazing Initiative, Jade & Ethan Proksch Farm, 53830 Newton Road, Genoa, WI 608 483-2476. Rotaional grazing with goats and/or mixed species. Details: www.kickapoograzinginitiative.com

Sept. 4 • Pasture Walk, Great River Graziers & Kickapoo Grazing Initiative, Wandy Peralta, 48210 Lewing Lane, Wauzka, WI. Organic transition, specialty crops, aronia, currants. Harriet Behar, Speaker. Details: www.kickapoograzinginitiative.com

Sept 7-9 • Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com Contact: Jill Alf, wisbc@centurytel.net 608-868-2505 (eve. after 5:00).

Sept. 7-9 • Wisconsin Wool Works! Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Consignment info: Carol Black, carol@ewesfulgifts.com 920-296-0326.

Sept. 7-8 • ASI Wool Handling Clinic – Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Sept. 8 • 2018 Wisconsin Make It With Wool Competition, Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Contact: Wynn Wittkopf, jwwittkopf@core.com 262-370-1433.

Sept. 8 • Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op Used Equipment Auction, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. Contact: Ryan Bingen, ryan.bingen@gmail.com 262-339-9816. Consignment info: www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

Sept.18-19 • UW Center for Dairy Research Master Artisan Short Course: Sheep, Goat and Mixed Milk Cheeses, UW-Madison. Information: kcf.laurel@tcc.coop

Sept. 22 • Badger Production Sale, Featuring UW-Madison Sheep Program, Public Events Facility, Arlington Ag Research Station, Arlington, WI. Questions or to be added to mailing list: Todd Taylor, 608-846-5858 email: toddtaylor@wiscmail.edu .

Oct. 12-13 • 6th Annual Rural Arts Roadtrip www.RuralArtsRoadtrip.com For Info: 920-286-0971 or bhavenfiverarts@yahoo.com

Oct. 16 • Pasture Walk, Great River Graziers & Kickapoo Grazing Initiative, Don Boland Farm, 18732 Hwy 27, Gays Mills, WI. 608-734-3570. EQIP for roads, deep bury water lines, extending the grazing season with stockpiling. Details: www.kickapoograzinginitiative.com

Oct. 18 • Copy/Ad Deadline – Fall Issue, Wisconsin Shepherd. Ads – Brittany Alf, alf.brittany@gmail.com, Copy – Bob Black rbblack@powercom.net

Oct. 30 – Nov. 15 • NAILE, North American International Livestock Exposition, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY www.livestockexpo.org

Nov. 3 • Annual Meeting, Sheep Dairy Association of Wisconsin (SDAW) Location TBA. Contact: Laurel Kieffer, Kcf.laurel@tcc.coop

Nov. 8-10 • DSANA Symposium, (Dairy Sheep Association of North America), Kansas City, MO. Information: Laurel Kieffer, Kcf.laurel@tcc.coop

2019

Jan. 31 – Feb. 2 • 27th Annual Grazing Conference, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI. www.grassworks.org.

Do you have an event coming up? Let us know!
Debbie Petzel – dspetzel@gmail.com

2018 MIWW Raffle Quilt

Someone will take home the beautiful 2018 Make It With Wool raffle quilt made by Carol Battenberg, Johnson Creek; Wynn Wittkopf, Pewaukee and Jolene Massuch, Watertown. Raffle tickets remain available and may be purchased by contacting either Wynn Wittkopf at 262 370-1433 or Carol Battenberg at 920-699-2233., or at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival until the winner is drawn on Saturday, September 8. The cost is $1 for a single ticket, $5 for six and $10 for 12. Raffle funds go to support the Wisconsin MIWW program. For more information contact Wynn Wittkopf at 262 370-1433 or email jwwittopf@core.com.

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