

# *Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Newsletter*

December 4, 2008

## **President's Notes**

Hope you have had a good 2008 and have your plans in order for your 2009 feeding/cropping/grazing/lambing program, whether it be soil testing, liming, fencing, ordering your scrapie tags and other lambing supplies, etc. It usually pays to plan ahead and a reminder that the identification of all sheep and goats in Pa. will be mandatory beginning January 1, 2009. **Free** USDA ear tags can be obtained by calling 1-866-873-2824.

Those of you that missed the Shepherd's Symposium missed out on a good program. Dr. Harold Harpster, Penn State Professor, did a great job of discussing some of the nutrition principles in utilizing some of our alternative & byproduct feed sources that may be less expensive ingredients. Rob Stout, USDA Pasture Lab Agronomist, did a good job of updating us on some research projects and discussed forage varieties/species that are working and their management. Brad Smith, West Virginia Small Ruminant Project Director, discussed their project covering – feed efficiency, utilization of ultrasonography for carcass evaluation and pregnancy determination and other reproductive management principles. All of which are very important in reducing feed cost inputs.

The last two speakers were very good and dealt more with marketing and promotion of our product – Nick Forrest, American Lamb Board Representative, did an excellent job of updating us on the ALB and how they use our checkoff dollars – they are doing a great job with considerably less dollars than beef or pork. There will be a vote early next year to renew the checkoff – everyone needs to get out and vote. The concluding speaker was JoAnne Gresham, PDA Agricultural Marketing Chief, Bureau of Market Development, giving an excellent presentation on the Pa. Preferred Market Program – more of us should be utilizing this program. The day's program was very good, food was great, annual meeting went well, had five good contestants in the Queen contest, but on the down side was the lower number of people attending compared to last year. A big Thank You to Mr. Domitrovich for a great job in preparing and cooking the lamb again.

Congratulations to Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, Pa., our 2009 Pa. Lamb & Wool Queen and Kristen Stufft, Lewistown, Pa. our Pa. Wool Princess. The other contestants were Susannah Black, Cochran, Pa., Rachel Finnegan, New Freeport, Pa. and Christine Martin, Somerset, Pa. – all did a good job. Rebecca Giles, our 2008 Queen has done a terrific job for our Association/industry – a big Thank You as she completes her reign at the Farm Show.

Some of the Make It With Wool contestants modeled their garments for us and did a wonderful job – best wishes to the winners as they compete at the Nationals early next year. Election of officers was a part of this year's meeting and Joanne Evans was elected President, Milo Gevin elected as Vice President with Greg Hubbard and Jan Motter being re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary. It has been a privilege for me to serve as your PSWGA president for the past three years and I thank you for the opportunity! I know Joanne will do a great job helping to move the association forward. I thank the officers – Stacy Taylor, V.Pres.; Jan Motter, Sec; Greg Hubbard, Treas; Laurie Hubbard, American Lamb Board Rep.; Joanne Evans, Newsletter for the great job they have done over the years and especially helping me the last three years.

There have been many good producers that have served as President of your PSWGA.

Some that I can recall were Raymond Henderson, Walter Newton, Wayne Kunes, George Hunter, Joe Vogel, Jim Sheeder, Tom Calvert, Clair Zerby, John Courtney, Ron Miller and George Wherry. George Hunter served as Sec/Treas., as did Stan Gates for many years. These individuals and their fellow officers are/were very much involved in the PSWGA and sheep industry but it takes the involvement of you, me, local sheep organizations, and breed associations to make a strong state association. PSWGA membership has slowly increased over the past few years but we only have around 5% of the Pa. producers as members. Most of you will receive a

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(President's Letter continued)

membership/dues notice in the near future – I would hope you will strongly consider remaining a member of the American Sheep Industry and PSWGA or if not a member signing up as a member.

Believe me it is worth the membership fee and urge those within your local area to become a member – there are a lot of things done/accomplished for you as a producer by individuals/these organizations (ASI & PSWGA) that you don't hear much about, but we, as producers, reap the benefits of their work.

The Pa. Farm Show is just around the corner Jan 9 -17, 2009 at the Pa. Farm Show Bldg. in Harrisburg. Some judging starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> but the building is not officially open to the public – judging of wool 2PM, others such as hay, crops, vegetables, bred gilts, some beef cattle etc.

Junior Market Goat Show – Saturday, Jan. 10 – 4 PM

Junior Market Lambs Show- Sunday, Jan 11 - 8 AM

Junior Market Livestock Sales – Tuesday, Jan. 13

Wednesday – Jan 14 – Youth Fleece to Shawl contest – 10 AM

Sheep to Shawl contest – 3 PM ----Sale of shawls – 6:30 PM

Fleece Auction – 7 PM

Thursday – Jan 15 – Junior Meat Breeding Goat show – 5 PM

Friday – Jan 16 – Sheep Judging – 8 AM – Merino, Rambouillet, Corriedale, Natural Color and AOB wool ----  
-3 PM –Junior Breeding Sheep show

Saturday – Jan 17 – 8 AM Sheep Judging – Suffolk, Dorset, Hampshire, Shropshire, Southdown and AOB meat  
---- 1 PM Supreme Champion Ewe & Ram selection

Boer Goat show start at 8 AM in the North West bldg while all sheep events are in the small arena.

Hope to see you at the Farm Show or at some other event/program.

Again I thank you for your support of the PSWGA and me over the past 3 years as your President and wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2009.

Happy Shepherding!!

Bob Calvert

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(L-R: 2008 PA Lamb & Wool Queen, Rebecca Giles; Christine Martin; 2009 PA Lamb & Wool Queen, Mallory Ketterer; 2009 PA Lamb & Wool Princess, Kristen Stufft; Rachel Finnegan; Susannah Black)

## **The 2009 Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers Queen Contest**

The 2009 PA Lamb & Wool Queen Contest was held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Samuel E. Hayes Jr. PA Livestock Evaluation Center, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. Contestants were evaluated by a panel of judges on a written essay, personal interview, and their public speaking skills.

There were five contestants from across the state vying for the title. Christine Martin, the 2008 Somerset County Lamb & Wool Queen, was a contestant. Christine is the 17 year old daughter of Thurston and Teresa Martin of Somerset, PA. She is a junior at Somerset Area Senior High School, with plans to attend college and major in Animal Bioscience and Veterinary Medicine. Christine is involved with varsity swimming, marching band, concert band, Spanish Honors Society, Honor Roll, Student Ambassador, National Junior Suffolk Association, Women's Welfare League, and Somerset County Council. She is very active in 4-H; showing market lambs and participating in the leadline competition. As part of the 2009 contest, Christine won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for her consumer promotional display which was voted on by conference attendees.

Mallory Ketterer of Berks County was selected as the 2009 PA Lamb & Wool Queen. Mallory is the 18 year old daughter of Brian and Jo-Ann Ketterer of Bernville, PA. She is a freshman at Albright College, majoring in Pre-Veterinary and Art Education. She is active in 4-H, student council, volunteers at nursery school, and makes agricultural presentations in urban and suburban schools. She is also a member of the Albright Woman's Cross Country track team. Mallory raises Border Leicester sheep and is a past Berks County Lamb & Wool Queen and 2008 PA Lamb & Wool Princess. As part of the 2009 contest, Mallory won 1<sup>st</sup> Place for her consumer promotional display which was voted on by conference attendees.

Kristen Stufft of Mifflin County was selected as the 2009 PA Lamb & Wool Princess. Kristen is the 18 year old daughter of Grant and Carrie Stufft of Lewistown, PA. She is a freshman at Penn State University, majoring in Animal Sciences with hopes of having a career in high-tech science based research. Kristen is active at school with the Penn State Marching Blue Band, Block and Bridle Club, Dairy Science Club, Poultry Science Club, Symphonic Band, and the French Horn Ensemble. She also volunteers for PA Ag in the Classroom and is very active in 4-H with her crossbred market lambs doing livestock petting zoos.

Rachel Finnegan, the 2008 Greene County Lamb & Wool Queen, was a contestant. Rachel is the 16 year old daughter of Debbie Finnegan of New Freeport, PA. She is a sophomore at West Greene High School, with plans after graduation to attend Midway College, KY for Equine Business and Medication. Rachel is active in SADD, Who's Who Among American High School Students, History Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation, Spanish Club, High School and Pro Rodeo, Wind Ridge Baptist Church Group, and Ryerson

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(PSWGA Queen Contest Continued)

Children Day Camp. She is active in 4-H with her Suffolk flock.

Susannah Black, a past NW PA Lamb & Wool Queen, was a contestant. Susannah is the 19 year old daughter of Edward and Holly Black of Cochranton, PA. Susannah is a sophomore at Penn State University, majoring in Animal Sciences. At school, she is active with the Penn State Block and Bridle Club, Dairy Science Club, Pre-Veterinary Club, Collegiate 4-H, and Students for the Responsible Use of Animals. Susannah is also active in 4-H with her breeding flock of Polled Dorsets.

The PA Lamb & Wool Queen program is sponsored by the PA Sheep & Wool Growers Association. The PA Lamb & Wool Royal Court will be asked to attend several industry related events throughout their reign. If you are interested in having royalty attend an event, please contact Laurie Hubbard at 814-355-4215 to schedule.



## **Pennsylvania Make It With Wool Competition**

On October 18, 2008 the Make It With Wool Competition was held in Somerset. The contest was divided into five divisions-Pre-Teen; Junior; Senior; Adults; & Made for Others with a total of twenty seven contestants participating. Contestants participated by constructing a garment made of 60 percent wool, either by sewing, crocheting, knitting or weaving.

In the Pre-teen division, Stephanie Augustine of Carbon County took top honors with her three-piece ensemble featuring a fully lined tunic, slim jersey wool pants and a jersey knit shirt. The Pre-teen runner up was Arianna Carleton from Beaver County with a four-piece ensemble which included a purple jacket, vest, skirt and hat. Anna Gilbert of Adams County won the Junior division with a hip-length winter coat and skirt. The Junior division runner-up was Sarah Cahalan of Beaver County. She made a two-piece fully-lined wool suit. The Senior division winner was Rachel Siegel of Lebanon County with a three-piece suit. Marah Light of Lebanon County constructed an evening gown encrusted with glass beads and capelet for the Senior division runner-up. Katherine Augustine of Carbon County placed first in the Adult division. Katherine constructed a purple boucle bomber jacket, hand-felted vest, wool crepe blouse and Chado Ralph Rucci's pants. The Senior division runner-up was Sharon Donahoe of Bedford County with a two piece Badgley Mischka designer suit made from beige stretch wool. The winner for the Made for Others division was Sharon Donahoe who constructed a fully lined long evening dress with jacket for her daughter Kristie. Runner up was Sierra Davies from Beaver County who created a two -piece suit. The competition was tough and we commend the other contestants who also created beautiful outfits.

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(Pennsylvania Make It With Wool Competition)

Each year our Make It With Wool Directors put in tremendous time and effort to make this competition happen. We would like to thank Jodell Antram and Virginia Rhoads for all their work! If you would like further information about the Make It With Wool Competition please contact Jodell Antram, 762 Antram Road, Somerset, PA 15501 or e-mail [daveandjodell@comcast.net](mailto:daveandjodell@comcast.net).

## **Information pertaining to the upcoming American Lamb Board Referendum**

The American Lamb Board and the Lamb Check off program were created in 2002 by the sheep industry to aid sheep producers in marketing **American** Lamb. The American Lamb Board is a thirteen member volunteer board, appointed by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, which represents all sectors of the sheep industry (producers, feeders, packers and seedstock), and oversees the use of all check off funds.

The American Lamb Check Off program is similar to many other commodity check off programs; (i.e. Beef, Pork, Soybean) in that it is funded by the industry. All sheep produced and sold in the United States are subject to a half-cent (\$.005) per pound live weight assessment paid by the producer, feeder or seedstock and an additional thirty-cent (\$.30) per head assessment paid by the first-handler or owner at time of slaughter. For example: a producer takes their 120 pound lamb to a livestock auction. The auction will deduct \$.60 from their payment and pass it on to the buyer. The buyer slaughters the lamb and will remit the \$.60 live assessment plus \$.30 per head assessment to the American Lamb Board.

These check off dollars are used by the American Lamb Board to increase the demand for **American** Lamb by promoting its freshness, flavor, nutritional benefits, versatility of cuts, year round availability and ease of preparation. The American Lamb Board does these promotions in the most efficient and effective way to increase the value to all portions of the sheep industry.

These check off dollars can be seen at work in numerous food magazines and newspapers, such as the Lancaster Farmer; television cooking shows; highway billboard advertising and even in your local supermarket. The American Lamb Board has also helped increase research and promotion of the nutritional benefits of lamb and has cultivated a large number of food service information and recipes to help new consumers of lamb understand how simple and easy lamb is to prepare.

The promotion efforts of the American Lamb Board have increased lamb consumption in the United States. For every check off dollar spent on advertising and promotion, there has been \$41.60 in additional industry sales, or 7.6 additional pounds of lamb consumed for every dollar spent. There has also been a 5.7 % increase in lamb consumption over the last ten years.

The Lamb Check off program will be up for a referendum vote by all production segments early spring of 2009. This means that every sheep producer has the responsibility to go and vote as to the future of the American Lamb Check Off program. Without your vote, the sheep industry may lose this program that has benefited all producers. In these tight economic times, this program allows producers to help themselves by furthering their own market.

Information about the referendum vote will be forthcoming from PSWGA and the American Sheep Industry Association, but we encourage all of you to keep up to date with your USDA, FSA offices for any information. For more information about the American Lamb Board or the referendum vote, please contact:

The American Lamb Board at 1-866-327-LAMB (5262)

Or: [www.americanlamb.com](http://www.americanlamb.com), or [www.lambcheckoff.com](http://www.lambcheckoff.com)

Or contact PA Sheep and Wool Growers President-Joanne Evans 717-485-0532

And remember to vote **“YES”** for the **American Lamb Checkoff!**

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## **Do you have predator problems on your farm?**

Wildlife Services (WS), a division within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts that threaten livestock. This help can be received before major problems arise. Wildlife Services are available for assistance throughout the entire state although in sixteen counties a new program is now in effect- The Cooperative Livestock Protection Program, which is funded by Federal, State, and local partners and is focused in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Butler, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. This cooperative program provides producers with technical and operational assistance concerning black vultures, European starlings, Canada geese, and eastern coyotes. WS technicians are available to provide on the ground direct control services (i.e., DRC 1339, effigies, pyrotechnics, traps, snares, compound 1080 collars, etc.) to producers in the sixteen county areas at a cost of \$250.00 per year. For further details and more information contact Wildlife Services at 724-238-7320.

## **For another way to control the coyote population:**

Shaver's Creek Fire Company 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Coyote Hunt

January 22, 23, 24, 2009

This is a Statewide hunt in Pennsylvania

For more information please call (814)667-2018; (814)667-2244; (814)677-3788

Or the Shaver's Creek Firemen's Park (814)667-3843

## **THANK EWE to everyone that helped with the Annual Meeting and our sponsors:**

Joanne Evans (silent auction)	Stacy Taylor (decorations)
Greg & Laurie Hubbard	Milo Gevin (milk)
Angie Anderson and Family (catering)	The Domitrovich Family (lamb chefs)
Dick & Becky Rishel (queen contest)	Kathy Forrest (queen contest)
American Lamb Board	PA Dept. of Agriculture
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative	American Sheep Industry
Penn State University, Dept. of Dairy & Animal Science	
Commonwealth of PA, Dept. of Agriculture	

## **Special THANKS to everyone that donated to our Silent Auction:**

Mid-States Wool Growers	Gene Check	Tom & Leann Calvert
Fred & Tammy Hemmerly	The Hubbard Family	Jim & Joanne Evans
The Taylor Family	Lyn Lee Farms	Rebecca Giles & Family
Sheep! Magazine	The Banner Magazine	The Shepherd Magazine
Ben & Mary Bow	Bob Calvert	Bearlin Acres
Jan Motter	The Gevin Family	John & Pam Courtney

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## **UPCOMING DATES**

January 9-17, 2009: Pennsylvania Farm Show: Harrisburg PA

January 21-24, 2009: American Sheep Industry, American Lamb Board, National Lamb Feeders Annual Meeting: San Diego, CA

February 28, 2009: Deadline for nominations for the PA Ram Test

March 7, 2009: PSWGA Directors Meeting: Livestock Evaluation Center: PA Furnace

June 12-14, 2009: Keystone Classic: Ag Arena

## **2009 PSWGA Contacts:**

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