

MARYLAND
SHEEP & WOOL
FESTIVAL

January 8th, 2010

Dear Exhibitors,

It is a snowy, blustery morning here, as it seems to be everywhere. Hopefully we'll get a break before lambing starts in earnest. As I drove across country to my home in Northwest Nebraska in late December, I saw places along the way which were familiar because of the MSWF exhibitors who live there. It was fun for our family to picture you there with your flocks. Here we are with a new year and decade, and it's time to get ready for 2010's show. Hopefully this letter finds you and your flock in good health and in the beginning of a great lambing season. It was wonderful to see so many of you at various shows last fall, and we look forward to seeing you soon. This year, after much begging, pleading, whining and various and sundry other forms of persuasion, we are going to set up a tentative, but hopefully not tenuous show schedule. We found very few complaints with the schedule from 2009 so that will be our template.

Tentative Schedule Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival 2010

Saturday 8:30 AM

Black Romney	White Wool Long
Border Leicester	White Wool Medium
Karakul	

Saturday Afternoon

Natural Colored Long	White Wool Fine
Natural Colored Medium	Jacob
Natural Colored Fine	Rambouillet
	Black Border Leicester

Sunday 8:30 AM

Romney	Lincoln
Corriedale	Black Lincoln

We were once again granted with an added surprise of increased funds from our wonderful State Board of Fairs. Thus, we will be able to continue to offer increased premiums. The 37th Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival will be held May 1st-2nd at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

ENTRY DEADLINES:

ALL entries must be postmarked no later than April 1st, 2010. A \$20.00 late fee will be assessed to all entries postmarked after April 1st (if space is available). NO entries will be accepted after April 10th. Hopefully there will be a Cotswold show this year if the numbers permit. The Rambouillet show is on probation, but we will not be canceling ANY breed show unless numbers are very low over several years. As in the past two years, we are able to add a Supreme Fleece Award, so don't overlook exceptional fleeces when choosing your sheep! Inquiries about sheep show entry forms, the fleece show and other Festival events should be directed to the Festival office at (410) 531-3647. For other questions, contact Mara Mullinix at (410) 775-2894 or (888) 865-4224.

Please double check your entry form. Providing complete and accurate information will expedite the registration and check-in process. It also helps us out when we set up pen assignments, enabling us to keep as many people as possible happy with their pens. Please let us know, even up to the last week, if you are unable to attend, or if your numbers will change.

The Festival continues to maintain a NO DOGS policy: Please be advised that no dogs (and/or puppies) will be allowed to accompany exhibitors, vendors or the public onto the fairgrounds. The term “fairgrounds” is defined as the entire festival site, including all building and parking areas. The only dogs which will be allowed onto the fairgrounds are certified service dogs and those dogs participating in the working sheepdog demonstrations. Anyone not complying with this policy will be required to remove their dog(s) from the fairgrounds.

Good Lambing!
See you in May!

Sincerely,
Mara Mullinix
Sheep Show Coordinator

MARYLAND SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL SHEEP SHOWS

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 1st.... NO ENTRIES AFTER APRIL 10th
REMEMBER WE ARE JUST VOLUNTEERS. PLEASE HELP US KEEP
ALL EXHIBITORS PARTICIPATING HONESTLY, IF THERE ARE
PROBLEMS CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE

1. ENTRY FEES: Entry fee per animal per show - \$10.00. Any breed having a breed show shall be ineligible to show in either White Wool Show Divisions or Natural Colored Divisions.
2. HEALTH RULES AND REGULATIONS: Please see new Maryland Veterinary Inspection standards and forms. The Livestock Exhibitors Self-Certification of Animal Health and the appropriate intrastate (MDA CVI-07) or interstate certificates are required for all sheep brought onto the fairgrounds. Sheep must be identified by ear tag or tattoo. Maryland entries must be accompanied by “Health Certificate for Show” Form MDA CVI-07 issued by your veterinarian and approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. OUT OF STATE ENTRIES MUST MEET INTERSTATE REGULATIONS AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY INTERSTATE HEALTH PAPERS. The health certificate must be prepared by an accredited veterinarian within thirty (30) days of the opening date of the Festival and must accompany the sheep to the Festival. All exhibits are required to have a Official scrapie ear tag in place.
3. EXHIBIT / SELL: Due to NEW Maryland Veterinary Inspection standards no animals can be kept/penned outside festival buildings. If you sell your animals while at the festival, please do not allow the purchaser to remove the animal from your pens until after release on Sunday. If this occurs, ineligibility for future MSWF shows and/or forfeiture of premium money may occur. If you have an animal that you have pre-sold, please have the health certificate completed by your veterinarian along with your show papers. All animals that are moved from Maryland and not returned to the state of origin MUST be accompanied by a Maryland interstate health certificate.

The scrapie program has enabled animals to be tracked from farm to farm. For more information see Dr. Mullinix. As we did last year, health certificates can be prepared for \$10.00 per animal. The proceeds will be donated to a non-profit youth oriented group. We know that the health certificate requirements can be confusing, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Mara Mullinix at (888)865-4224.

4. RETURN OF FEES: No entry fees will be returned after the entry deadline, April 1st.
5. BEST FLEECE CLASS: Breed shows will have a best fleece-in show class. All exhibitors participating in these breed shows may select one animal to compete in this class. Animal must be shown in breed show and may be a ram or ewe, yearling or lamb. Animals competing in this class will be judged on excellence of fleece only. Ribbons and \$35 will be awarded. There will be an overall best fleece category for the Natural colored show.
6. REGISTRATION: Sheep entered in the purebred shows must be registered in the name of the consignor by April 15 and must be presented with a registration certificate, ear tag or tattoo which corresponds to the registration certificate.
7. JUDGING CRITERIA: PUREBRED SHEEP will be judged by the breed standards of their respective breed associations. White Wool Show Sheep must have 100% white wool. WHITE WOOL AND NATURAL COLORED SHEEP will be judged 60% on wool quality and 40% on confirmation. NATURAL COLORED SHEEP must have at least 35% colored wool. There must be a minimum of two (2) inches on mature sheep except in fine wool division, where one and one-half (1 ½) inches will be the minimum throughout fleece except belly area. We will be adhering more closely to this rule than in the past please do not compromise your eligibility to compete.
8. ENTRY LIMITS: An exhibitor may enter two (2) sheep in any one individual class. Animals may not be double entered in shows.
9. NUMBER EXHIBITED: A Breed Show must have at least thirty-five (35) head exhibited by five (5) exhibitors. Any Breed Show falling below this number will be placed on probation for the year following and will be dropped if it does not meet this number the second year.
10. REMOVAL/RELEASE OF EXHIBITS: You will be expected to keep your livestock on the grounds until release time. Failure to do so without show committee approval could result in forfeiture of premium money.
11. SUBSTITUTION / CHECK-IN: Substitutions within class will be permitted. Substitution must be filed with the show clerks no later than 6:00 p.m. Friday. ALL ANIMALS MUST BE CHECKED IN WITH SHOW COORDINATORS. CHECK-IN: 1:00–6:00 P.M. FRIDAY. No check in will occur after this time. (Please do not make us hunt you down like children to get you to register at 11:00 Friday night or 8:00 Sunday Morning.....you know who you are.) **There will be NO Ring side Check in in 2010.** Once again all registration will be computerized to give us up to the minute catalogs for Saturday morning. Please have all your information ready. Please be patient with us and we will be patient with you. Thank you so much for making 2009 the easiest check-in yet!!!!
12. ENTRY DEADLINES: ENTRIES WILL CLOSE APRIL 1st. Penning will be assigned chronologically as entry forms are received by the committee. **NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 10th.**
13. PENS: Pens will be available after 12 noon, Thursday before the show. **NO SHEEP ALLOWED ON THE FAIRGROUNDS BEFORE 12:00 NOON ON THURSDAY APRIL 29th. ALL SHEEP MUST BE PENNED BY 6:00 PM FRIDAY NIGHT.** The barn superintendents may not waive this rule except in extreme emergencies. We can be contacted on (301) 748-8383 on Friday or you can leave a message at (888) 865-4224 from 8:00a.m.to 6:00 p.m. EST, if you are delayed to arrive by this time.
14. PENNING: We are penning in 4 barns – barns 1 & 2 are directly across from the show ring, the main show barn and the new barn. Indicate on your entry or in a note if you want to be penned near or with another exhibitor. **PLEASE DO NOT MOVE YOUR PENNING LOCATIONS WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH THE SHEEP SHOW OFFICE. ONLY THOSE SHEEP**

ENTERED TO SHOW MAY BE PENNED. WE ENDEAVOR TO HONOR PENNING REQUESTS. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL EXHIBITORS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO PENS AS REQUESTED. YOU MAY APPLY IN THE OFFICE TO MOVE YOUR SHEEP TO UNOCCUPIED PENS AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR ARRIVAL ON FRIDAY P.M. We really appreciate your efforts in the last years. It makes our lives much more happy!!!!!!

15. We would appreciate being notified if, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are unable to attend. Please call and leave a message for Mara Mullinix at (410)775-2894 or (888)865-4224.
16. Initial straw bedding will be provided. If you will need additional bedding, please bring it with you. We try to have straw available for purchase. See Mara if needed.
17. AGES: Senior Lambs – born between Sept 1 and Dec 31.
Junior Lambs – born between Jan 1 and Feb 15
Junior Lambs born after this date may not be shown

NOTE: Un-weaned baby lambs are not allowed in the show ring with ewe, or in the barns.

SHOWRING RULES: All exhibitors are required to wear a button shirt or a farm/flock shirt and an exhibitor # in the show ring.

AS HAS BEEN STATED MULTIPLE TIMES IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT Mara Mullinix, at (888)865-4224 or on MVHINC@aol.com
DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY ALL THE RULES THEY ARE ONLY THERE TO KEEP OUR SHOW RUNNING SMOOTHLY

DIRECTIONS TO THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS:

Take Route 70 to Exit 80. Go South on Route 32 to the first light. Turn right onto Route 144 West. Go less than a mile to Fairgrounds Road. Turn right to entrance.

Take 495 across Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Take Baltimore/Washington Parkway towards Baltimore. Exit at Route 32 – Columbia Exit. Go on Route 32 for approximately 15 – 20 miles. At intersection of Route 144 go left. The Fairgrounds are on the right.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are many motels available within 30 miles. Call 1-800-4CHOICE to access Econo-lodge, Comfort Inn, and Quality Inn etc., all in Frederick. For information on lodging in Howard County call 1-800-288-TRIP.

FESTIVAL OFFICE: (410)531-3647 or mdsheepwoolfest@verizon.net or www.sheepandwoolfestival.org

White Wool and Natural Colored Sheep will be shown in three Divisions:

Fine Wool: spinning count of 60's and above; fine and ½ blood;
micron – 24.94 – 17.70 inclusive.

Medium Wool: spinning count of 50's to 58's; 3/8 blood and ¼ blood;
micron – 30.99 – 24.95 inclusive

Long Wool: spinning count 44's to 48's; low ¼ blood and common;
micron – 36.19 – 31.00 inclusive

AWARDS:

Champions: Champion classes are limited to first prize animals. Second prize sheep to the champion may compete for Reserve Champion.

Premier Exhibitor: A plaque will be awarded to the exhibitor in each show earning the highest number of points in placing.

Shepherd's Award: This award will be given to the consignor presenting his/her sheep in the most attractive manner throughout the Festival. Farm signs and promotional material should be used. Helpful, courteous behavior and those that go above and beyond will also be considered.

Supreme Champions: The champions in each division and in each purebred show may compete for Supreme Champion Ram and Supreme Champion Ewe. Sheep competing for this award will be judged on percentage of excellence for their breed. Don't shear until after judging!

Ernest E Hall Memorial Trophy: This award is given in memory of Ernie Hall who unselfishly donated 16 years of dedicated service to The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. As a founder he worked tirelessly to establish the Festival and to help it grow into the major event that it is today. This trophy will be awarded to the exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Ram.

Florence B. Hall Memorial Trophy: This award is given in memory of the 16 years of dedicated service which Florence Hall gave to The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. She served as secretary and publicity coordinator for many years. Few were aware of the many hours behind the scene Florence donated in the interest of helping the Festival to grow and develop to the fullest extent 25 years later. This trophy will be awarded to the exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Ewe.

Lucy Conant Memorial Trophy: This trophy will be presented in memory of Lucy Conant, a devoted participant at the Festival for many years until her death in the summer of 1991. The trophy will be awarded to the Champion Romney Ewe by the "friends of Lucy Conant."

Supreme Champion Fleece: A monetary award of \$100.00 and a plaque will be given for the animal whose fleece is chosen from those who have been awarded Best fleece in each show.