



Newsletter of the  
**MARYLAND**  
**SHEEP BREEDERS**  
**ASSOCIATION**

**SPRING 2017**

## All Breeds Show on Friday, sale on Saturday

**T**wenty-two ewes and ewe lambs and five rams are offered at this year's All Breeds Show and Sale at the Festival. The show takes place at 7 p.m. Friday in the main show ring, with the sale beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

White and natural colored Romneys, white Border Leicesters, white and natural colored Lincolns, Merinos, Karakuls, and natural

colored medium wool sheep are offered this year. Breeding stock from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Rhode Island fill this year's sale.

Details on the sale list can be found at:  
<http://www.bannersheepmagazine.com/salecatalogs/2017/Maryland-Catalog-2017.pdf>.

## Featured breed: The dual-purpose Romney

**W**e are excited to be Featured Breed this year and have our National Sale at the Festival! We will have displays in the Featured Breed tent and there will be plenty of quality American Romneys for folks to see in the sheep barns exhibited by new and long-time ARBA breeders.

The Romney breed originated in the Kent region of southeastern England. The Romney, often referred to as the Romney Marsh, was developed and selected for its strong, footrot-resistant hooves and durable fleeces that remain healthy under harsh conditions. These characteristics have enabled the breed to thrive in many areas and become one of the most successful breeds worldwide.

Romneys were first imported into the United States in 1904 by William Riddell and sons of Monmouth, Oregon. The breed quickly spread in popularity throughout country. The American Romney Breeders Association (ARBA) was formed in 1912 to continue to enhance the role of

Romneys in the U.S. sheep industry. Featuring a slight mix of English style and recent New Zealand introductions, the American Romney is truly something unique. Almost 1,100 animals from nearly 200 breeders were registered last year.

American Romneys are a true dual-purpose breed. They excel at producing quality meat and wool. The Romney has a milder, more delicate flavor than other breeds, making it ideal for those new to eating lamb. Romney fleece diameter falls between 29 and 37 microns, making it the finest of the long wools. In white and natural colors, it has striking luster and has a very soft handle despite the increased fiber diameter.

Look for signs throughout the Festival for Romney breeders and those producing wool products from their exceptional fleeces.

—Chris Posbergh, President, American Romney Breeders Association

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### Free Festival admission for MSBA Members

Members' names will be on a "will call" list at the main gate. Up to two adults from each farm/family will be allowed in for free.





# President's Message

**Lee Langstaff**  
2016-17 MSBA President

After a strange sort of winter season here in the Mid-Atlantic region, most of us have lambs on the ground and are beginning to think about how our pastures will fare this summer, and what the parasite load will be like—especially given the mild winter.

Many of us are also immersed in the planning and preparation for the forty-fourth Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival—our sheep spectacular, the ultimate celebration of sheep and the relationship forged between people and sheep over millennia. While fiber festivals of many sorts have cropped up all over the country, the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival remains firmly grounded in its agricultural and shepherding roots. This is fundamental to who and what the MSBA is all about and is something we can be proud of.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank MSBA members on three fronts:

First, to those of you who volunteer your time, enthusiasm, expertise, and creativity to do your part in making our Festival happen. It's a humbling privilege to be in your midst and to see the work and commitment that you bring to this effort. Thank you.

Second, to those of you who bring your animals for competition or display, we are so lucky to have you among us. You highlight some of the best examples of sheep and wool on the hoof that can be found anywhere because of your keen interest and excellence. Thank you.

Third, many MSBA members are vendors at the Festival, showcasing the results of your shepherding, your fiber arts skills, your creativity, and your genuine appreciation for what we and sheep can do together. Thank you.

I know that there are some of you who fall into more than

one of these categories, and my hat is off to you. You are our heroes! I also know that there are some who participate in and contribute to these activities who are not MSBA members. I thank you as well—but can't resist asking why aren't you members?! Don't be shy, you don't actually have to breed sheep to be a member of MSBA!

As we come down the home stretch in our preparations, feeling alternately stressed and eager, exhausted and excited with anticipation, it can sometimes be tempting to think about how nice it will be to sit back the day after the Festival and really relax.

When this happens to me I remind myself of the contagiously happy expressions on the faces and in the voices of people settling their sheep in their pens or fixing up their booths, or dropping off their fleece entries, or skein and garment entries – ooh-ing and aaaah-ing as they greet one another. There is back slapping, hugging, laughter, and genuine pleasure in engaging another year with people who share, in some dimension, a genuine passion for sheep and wool.

The positive energy is infectious, and I look forward to being awash in it with all of you who participate. Thank you for whatever role you play, and may it put a smile on your face!

*From the Festival photo archives: An early auction scene.*



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**Contact the editor for permission to reprint articles.**

## Ad Rates

Size	Specs (inches)	Price
Full page	7.5 x 9.5	\$95, \$320/year
Half vert.	3.3 x 9.5	\$60, \$200/year
Half horiz.	7.5 x 4.25	
Third	7.5 x 3	\$45, \$150/year
Quarter	3.3 x 4.25	\$30, \$100/year
Biz card	3.3 x 2	\$15, \$50/year
Classified	230 characters	\$10

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**Martha Polkey, Editor**  
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In January I had the pleasure of being able to attend the American Sheep Industry Convention for the second time. This year I made sure to attend a wide variety of meetings and events along with fulfilling my Wool Council duties.

My convention started out on a high note on January 25 with a tour of a local Colorado feed lot and processing plant. I've visited feedlots in Iowa, but was pleasantly surprised at the efficiency and tidiness of the Denver operation. Pens were laid out in manageable sections, and this operation had sheep that were breeder owned as well as lambs already under contract by the processor. This feedlot could house 80,000 lambs and feed out 150,000 lambs a year.

Our guides took great pride in describing their feeding operations and cleaning procedures as well as pointing out the care taken to protect local waterways from runoff and managing illness. Many of these sheep were going to be processed as organic, and proper marking of all lambs being treated was essential to meeting that requirement.

From there we went to visit the processing plant, which kills about 3,000 to 5,000 lambs per day. The professionalism and cleanliness of the facility was admirable and the employees appeared to be both highly trained and enjoying their jobs. Each person was specifically trained in one part of the process, from stunning (they did halal kill and stunned each animal before cutting the throat) to skinning to removing each organ and ultimately fabricating each cut of

*You can watch Temple Grandin's talk at the ASI convention at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oP-as0Ss8Y>*



## National news & views



meat. It was quite an experience. After walking through that facility, we visited a pelt processing plant. There we saw workers salting and sorting pelts for export and use at the company's Texas tannery. I was particularly interested in their discussion of how shearing impacts pelt prices and grading. They provided visitors with useful advice for producers.

On the second day I found myself in several Wool Council meetings. We spent a lot of time discussing the dropping wool prices, which are mostly the result of China buying less. We had several speakers address the council with the same message: China's warehouses are full of medium and coarse wools (this affects us in the East especially hard since that's the type of wool we produce) and there is a slowdown in the production of items using these types of wools. They are also turning back containers that have any visible manure or tags and this has slowed exports considerably.

We also discussed the expanding wool usage of the military, as the services order production of more items using wool blends. The possibility of an expanding military is good news for fine-wool growers.

There was also discussion made about funding of several wool-related projects, including a shearing trailer in Montana, the potential to bring in an advanced shearing instructor from New Zealand, and the possibility of purchasing and selling skirting tables at cost to help producers.

It was on this evening of the convention that I was able to hear Colorado State University Professor of Animal Sciences Temple Grandin speak about animal welfare issues. She is a phenomenal speaker and many of her points resonated with me, especially since I work in an area of sheep management that is riddled with animal welfare issues. She is down to earth and practical, and she appeals to all demographics. If you ever get a chance to hear her,

## 2017 American Sheep Industry Convention: A report

**Emily Chamelin**

*Emily is MSBA's ASI representative*

### Convention presentations

Among the ASI convention presentations you can view online are:

- Medically Important Antimicrobials in Animal Agriculture - Sheep
- Animal Health Committee Updates
- Scrapie Eradication Program Update
- Livestock Protection Dog Update
- Control of Infectious Diseases
- Responsible Wool Standard Update
- Lamb Quality/Flavor Research
- Instrument Augmented Lamb Grading Status
- Crossbreeding to Improve Productivity
- Responsible Animal Care

Go to [http://sheepusa.org/ResearchEducation/Presentations\\_2017Convention](http://sheepusa.org/ResearchEducation/Presentations_2017Convention), and click on the title of interest.



## National news and views ►

don't miss it. I'd also highly recommend her book on animal handling systems. Her advice is spot on.

On the third day I attended more Wool Council meetings, which again focused on declining interest from China. That evening I attended some of the Young Entrepreneur programming. This is by far one of the best programs put on by ASI and the camaraderie and educational benefits are immense. I'm going to push for our association to pursue a scholarship program to allow some of our younger members to attend. It is inspirational and encouraging to see like-

minded young people trying new things and being excited about farming.

At this year's program other young entrepreneurs discussed their operations; attendees got an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of how things are done in different regions. We also did a wool workshop about classing wools and the importance of proper skirting and sorting.

On the convention's final day participants on a producer panel spoke about their methods of lambing and feeding. We heard about the struggles of other farmers, and observed the diversity of sheep-raising practices of these farmers.

On the last day I was also pleased to attend our regional caucus. We continue to be a part of the Southeastern region which includes Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and North and South Carolina. Most of these states reported about starting small wool festivals in the past few years.

But the main emphasis for most of these states was in ram tests, wool pools, and educational seminars. All the states reported increasing numbers of new flock owners and the demand for classes and educational opportunities geared toward beginner shepherds. Several other states had made use of Let's Grow grant money to put together educational seminars and classes. It was reported that these are available for use by other states.

Bottom line—it was another great convention. I'm still trying to find my footing and really get an understanding of the numerous opportunities available through ASI, grants and funding opportunities, and the partnerships and camaraderie available to those who need it. I would love to see our association help make it possible for others to attend and learn—and pursue a project of our own that could utilize those Let's Grow program dollars. Anyone interested in brainstorming with me is welcome!


I'm already looking forward to next year's convention. Let me know if you are interested in attending; I'll happily provide you with more information. Next year the convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

I'm thankful to the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association for allowing me to represent my state at the convention. I look forward to continuing to bring our Maryland sheep and wool issues to the convention table, and look forward to continuing to work for you at the national level as your ASI representative.


# 4TH ANNUAL MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL ALL BREEDS SALE

**Featuring NATIONAL ROMNEY SHOW & SALE**  
Howard County Fairgrounds • West Friendship, MD


**SHOW: Friday, May 5 • 7 PM SALE: Saturday, May 6 • 6 PM**  
**JUDGE: Brian Faris, TX AUCTIONEER: Terry Jacobs, MD**




Champion Lincoln & Top-Selling  
\$1250 Ewe, Sold to J&D Fattoria, MD



Pine Lane Farm, MI Champion Karakul Ewe  
Sold for \$400 to Yahya Dogru, NJ



Little Hooves Romneys, NJ Champion Natural  
Colored Ewe, Sold to Sabrina Chester, VA for \$625




Mendenhall Wool Ranch, CA Champion Merino  
Ewe, Sold to Morgan & Anna Lawther, OH for \$500

**2016**

**ENTRIES DUE MARCH 15**

**Yearling Ewes • Fall Ewe Lambs • Spring Ewe Lambs • Rams**  
(to sell a ram, you must enter 2 ewes)

See the complete sale catalog online and in the April **Banner!**



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In a recent thread on a sheep owners Facebook page, a member queried fellow producers:

“So I got a new herd sire Katahdin ram and he has been acting aggressive, butting me almost every time I enter the pen. Is their [sic] anything I can do to stop or at least help this behavior?”

Abundant among the responses were references to electric shock tools, wrestling contests, blunt force reprisals, blasts of water, and dogs hanging on their noses.

Not exactly an image of shepherding that would invite positive public relations for our industry. And all the more regrettable following the recent American Sheep Industry Association convention in January at which Colorado State University Professor of Animal Sciences Temple Grandin spoke to producers on animal welfare and the humane handling of livestock, based upon an understanding of the animals’ senses, perception, and psychology.

Let’s lay aside the question of why people ask random Facebook group members about how to manage their flocks instead of first consulting authoritative sources. (See box on page 6 for some useful ones.) Are shocks, wrestling, hitting, dog bites, and blasts of water the best way to handle aggressive rams?

“The objective of proper sheep handling and well-designed facilities is to increase productivity and profit, while meeting an ethical and moral obligation to ensure good animal welfare and care in production” is an initial statement on a humane handling video on the ASI website ([http://sheepusa.org/NewsMedia\\_Video](http://sheepusa.org/NewsMedia_Video)).

A successful shepherd understands the motivations and behaviors of sheep, and organizes facilities and management strategies to minimize stress—on animals and humans alike.

### Sheep society

Sheep form strong and stable social groups that are stable and the social organization of the flock influences grazing patterns. Both rams and ewes have dominance hierarchies, with studies showing that some breeds (such as Merinos) exhibit a very linear pecking order (and strong family bonds), while other breeds (Border Leicesters, for example) have a more diffuse hierarchy.

Once the hierarchy is decided, flockmates settle down into a stable social structure. Sometimes a strong bond forms between two animals and they become mutually dependent. (I’ve observed one of my Merino rams standing still while another ram uses the first one’s horns as a scratching device, similar to mutual grooming



Image by Barbara Klein,  
of Nancy Cox Starkey's Kep

seen in bonded horses.) Humans are part of that social structure, and your job is to foster positive bonds with your sheep.

### Understand the animal

Avoid actions and behaviors that invite aggression. Favor psychology and good facilities over battles. Structure facilities so that problematic encounters are avoided. The end result is less wear and tear on humans and animals alike.

Brook and Lois Moore, breeders of Shetland sheep at Stonehaven Farm, state on the ram management page of their website, “Many people believe that rams are inherently dangerous and shouldn’t be given attention, but some of them can be very affectionate for their whole lives. Congenial, and even close, relationships with the shepherd are very possible as long as the ram understands, and wholeheartedly believes, that the shepherd is the ‘alpha ram.’”

### The basics

Three factors figure in ram behavior, says University of Illinois Cooperative Extension sheep specialist A. Richard Cobb:

- the genetics of the animal.
- the amount of human contact the animal has had or is having.
- the quality of the human exposure the animal has had or is having.

So tractable rams are partly born, partly created, and so are aggressive ones. Good management facilities and an understanding of behavior gets you to the requirements for good animal welfare.

### Genetics

Cobb states that rams have different personalities, as do other animals, including humans.

“Their genetic makeup, inherited from their parents, means some of them have the genes to be more aggressive,

Ewes are  
from Venus,  
Rams are  
from Dodge:  
Practical  
and humane  
handling

**Martha Polkey**

*Maryland Sheep News  
editor*

*You can watch Temple  
Grandin's video on  
humane sheep handling  
at [http://sheepusa.org/  
NewsMedia\\_Video](http://sheepusa.org/NewsMedia_Video).*





## Management ►

passive, or timid than the rest of the population. Some families and lines are more aggressive than others are. This does not mean that just because an animal is from an aggressive line that it will automatically be aggressive, but that it has a greater potential to be," he says.

Aggressive animals are also usually more aggressive in their approach to breeding, dealing with other sheep, and in dealing with humans, says Cobb. Aggression may be greatest during the breeding season, when rams are with ewes.

Breeds that have highly seasonal breeding patterns may be more aggressive during those periods than breeds that are more polyestrous (such as Merino, Rambouillet, and Dorset), which can breed year-round.

### Contact

Range rams, which have little contact with humans, are very wary. (But individual personalities emerge there too: I once purchased a 10-month old range ram from Nevada, who is calm and was a snap to halter train.) Farm flock rams have more human contact. They will be rotated through pastures, will have feet trimmed, be checked for parasites and dewormed, and placed with ewes for breeding. Show animals have intense contact with humans.

What is the quality of that contact? We may have one view of what "kind" behavior is—but what is the ram's opinion of the matter?

"Rubbing, scratching, pushing or slapping of the head or forehead of a ram may be viewed by the person as the showing of "love" for the animal," Cobb says. But it may be interpreted by the animal as a challenge or threat that has to be returned at some time.

What is the perspective of the ram? How do you fit into sheep society? Are you a potential predator, or a flockmate? If you are a flockmate, are you a rival or a friend?

This again comes back to an individual ram's temperament. Rams who perceive rubbing of ears, cheeks, or chins as mutual grooming behavior may view the interaction as a bonding experience. Rams who view handling and touching as a potential or actual challenge will have a different reaction.

Avoid initiating a dominance battle. Assess the ram's temperament, and tailor your interactions. Establish routines for feeding, close penning, and handling that avoid opportunities for conflict. If a ram never is faced with a situation—and the cues—that make him think he must react to a challenge and exert dominance, both sheep and shepherd are better off.



Humane handling & ram management: some resources

#### ASI video on humane handling facilities.

[http://sheepusa.org/NewsMedia\\_Video](http://sheepusa.org/NewsMedia_Video)

#### Behavioral Principles of Livestock Handling by Temple Grandin.

<http://www.grandin.com/references/new.corral.html>

#### Animal Behaviour—Sheep: Resources for Applied Ethology.

<https://www.animalbehaviour.net/for-kids/farm-animals/sheep>

#### Got a Mean Ram? You May Be to Blame.

<http://livestocktrail.illinois.edu/sheepnet/paperDisplay.cfm?ContentID=6434>

#### Tough Love for Rams:

[www.stonehavenfarm.com/page7/toughlove.html](http://www.stonehavenfarm.com/page7/toughlove.html)

Everyone on the farm who manages the flock should adhere to the same protocol. If one shepherd has set up a dominance conflict, the ram will want to express to any other human he encounters that he is not lower on the totem pole. If the shepherd has used pain and punishment to establish himself as the alpha ram, the shepherdess, or children, may be the recipient of the ram's drive to reassert dominance. (In psychology, this is called displacement: "An unconscious defense mechanism whereby the mind substitutes either a new aim or a new object for goals felt in their original form.") The ram is ticked off at your spouse, but he's gonna take it out on you.

Because rams watch and learn from each other, it's also not good for rams to see other rams engage in aggressive behavior with people.

Good quality contact includes quiet and calm handling. Sheep remember unpleasant experiences for a very long time—being chased, being hit, being bitten by a dog, handled roughly, etc. Good experiences for sheep include feed, low stress, and positive human contact.

Remember from psychology class operant conditioning—the use of positive or negative reinforcement following an animal's action? (Rats press a bar and receive food, or press a bar to stop a mild shock.) Same goes for ovines. Sheep enter a pen (action) and receive food (positive reinforcement); the pressure around a lamb's nose resisting the pull of a halter (negative stimulus) is released when the lamb moves forward (positive action). Where negative reinforcement becomes punishment, problems occur.

- Punished behavior is not forgotten, it's suppressed—behavior returns when punishment is no longer present.

- It can cause increased aggression.

- It can create fear that causes undesirable behaviors. (A terrified 200-pound ram careening around a pen can injure himself or you. A ram that cannot be caught cannot be vaccinated, dewormed, shorn, or have his hooves trimmed.)

### Practical suggestions

Get to know the ram you've purchased, and allow him to get to know you, as a calm handler and the source of all good things—food and water, shelter and health—who requires respect.

Don't enter an open pasture to manage aggressive rams or rams with ewes that are seasonably aggressive. Gather the flock, using a dog or the opportunity of feed (always a reliable motivation for sheep movement), into a paddock or pen where animals can be closely confined.



When you cross a paddock or pen with a bucket of feed, even otherwise tractable rams think “Me want.” Each second you do not provide him with his desire is a tick-tick-ticking towards him taking the matter into his own hands—that is, his horns or head. Prevent such conflicts: Exclude animals while you fill feeders, or arrange feeders so that you do not have to enter a pen of sheep to feed them.

Tie up the ram before working ewes (a collar on the ram allows you to easily attach a lead rope and secure him to a post). He gets to have positive human contact, and no opportunity to consider mustering a challenge to you.

### Starting a ram from scratch

Asked to provide a comment about fatherhood for a Fathers’ Day article, former Daily Show host and comedian Jon Stewart quipped: “Fatherhood is great because you can ruin someone from scratch.” Don’t ruin a ram from scratch.

As ram lambs begin to mature, they begin to challenge each other, and some will begin to look at the shepherd with an appraising eye. It’s then time for them to begin learning The Rules of good behavior. Halter training when the lamb is fairly small is a good beginning.

If a young ram lamb approaches you, then backs up a few steps, and comes forward with head lowered—feinting a charge—take him by the chin and behind the head (as if you were showing him), restrain him, and make him take a few steps forward or turn him around, calmly and firmly, then release him. This is a subtle dominance gesture. Repeat if necessary, and increase the period of restraint.

Sometimes ram lambs will follow behind you, giving you a tentative push against the legs. Your response can be to sharply raise your feet behind you as you walk. A lamb following too closely behind will get a good bop on the chin. It’s not a punishment, it just happens: he was following too closely. Horses might kick, people might bop you on the chin.

If you have a ram lamb who doesn’t seem to get these memos, take a more emphatic approach. Grab the lamb by his neck/forequarters, lift his front end off of the ground and yell at him for a while (“No, no, no! Stop it!”). He’s not been hurt, but he was rendered physically helpless and was frightened. It is a bad experience that is remembered.

You can escalate further. The Cobbs suggest: “We flip the ram lambs on their backs or sides, shouting ‘No!’ This is easy when they are small, and one such treatment as a youngster often makes a lasting impression; that ram may not

ever require another.” Do you have the strength and skill to accomplish the task? If you aren’t sure, don’t try it. This lesson must be swift and emphatic to be successful.

### Hard cases

The title of sheep specialist A. Richard Cobb’s article (mentioned above) is “Got a mean ram? You may be to blame.” Years ago I sold a well-trained champion ram to a couple down in Virginia. He served them very well; then they allowed a neighbor to use him. The neighbor repeatedly “bulldogged” the ram.

The couple asked me to take him back, as they no longer needed him, and asked if I could try to resell him. He was just as gorgeous as ever, but he wanted to kill me and anyone else who tried to approach him in a pen. I did sell him—at the auction with “Mean Ram” written on his side.

Cobb says: Not only is an aggressive ram dangerous for your own family, but if he injures your neighbor or someone visiting your flock, you are liable in a court of law. Any ram that is overly aggressive or mean should be removed from the flock and shipped.”

But sometimes removal is impractical from the owner’s standpoint. “A purebred ram may be particularly of value in that his offspring sell for a great deal of money. The cost of replacing the ram may be too high or the producer, or his/her family, may have an emotional attachment to a specific ram for any number of reasons.”

If you keep a mean ram, make sure you can pen him closely and have someone help you when it is necessary to handle the animal. Use a panel or folding hurdle to confine the animal in a corner of a pen to do whatever you need to do. “Do not try to make friends with the animal or to cure him of his aggressiveness, as doing so may just increase his meanness,” Cobb says. His advice for flock owners concludes with a list:

- Never tease or taunt a ram.
- Know where the ram is at in a pasture or pen.
- When visiting another producer, ask if there is a ram in the pen or pasture and identify where the animal is before entering.
- Never turn your back on a ram.
- Keep distance between you and the ram.
- Never try to make rams into pets.

It is a shame if a valuable breeding animal must be disposed of because he has become dangerous. It can often be avoided.



*A Shetland ram placed in a submissive position. From <http://www.stonehavenfarm.com/page7/toughlove.html>*





## Wool pool suspension: Present options and future direction

The Maryland Wool Pool, traditionally held in mid-June at the State Fairgrounds in Timonium, will not take place this year. This suspension is a result of considerable discussion over the past year. Wool Pool Director Emily Chamelin identified and shared a number of concerns over the past several years, and helped the Board to consider better ways to help MSBA members connect with buyers for their wool.

From its heyday when more than 100,000 pounds of wool were brought to the Maryland pool over 2 days, to more recent years when it fell below 30,000 pounds, we've seen the demographics of wool production and sales in Maryland and the region evolve. The number of MSBA members who have taken advantage of the Wool Pool has decreased, while the resources needed to conduct the pool have not decreased with the drop in wool volume. The availability of volunteers—including those who are qualified to run the wool presses—has waned as well.

Chamelin, who shears all over our region, and well beyond, made the decision to resign as wool pool director and to become a buyer herself – on behalf of one of the large wool mills, Groenewald Wool and Fur Company, as well as other potential purchasers. She will be able to buy directly from shepherds on their farms, saving them the need to transport their wool on a set day to a wool pool.

This alternative will undoubtedly further reduce the volume of wool that would be brought to the wool pool, as well as the number of shepherds likely to participate (be served by the wool pool and/or have sufficient interest to volunteer).

### Going forward

The decision to suspend the Wool Pool for 2017 was made by the MSBA Directors, which also offers an open invitation to any interested MSBA members to engage in a process to investigate the needs wool producing members in connecting with buyers for their wool, and consider the most appropriate role for MSBA on behalf of its members in this regard. If there is sufficient interest, a task force will be formed to develop recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Board also has acted to provide MSBA members with information about the range of options, in the absence of the wool pool, available to connect them with buyers for their wool (see Emily Chamelin's article in this issue).

If you wish to help guide the future of MSBA's wool marketing assistance to producers, please contact Lee Langstaff (lmlangstaff@gmail.com; 301-908-9332) or Tommy Mullinix (shepherd1952@aol.com; 410-857-4387).

### Use of MSBA wool presses

MSBA owns the two wool presses that have been used at the Wool Pool to bale wool in the large 300-lb-plus square packs for transport to the buyer. The maintenance, management, and transportation of these presses has been challenging over the years, and has relied heavily on a few volunteers' time, expertise, and good will, as well as Wool Pool financial resources.

In the past a few MSBA members have borrowed the presses, at no cost, to bale their wool clips on their own premises, with the understanding that they would bring that wool to the wool pool. These valuable presses, and the trailers on which they are transported, require regular care and maintenance in order to remain functional and safe. MSBA is eager and willing to make the presses available to those members who wish to use them, and has delineated the following protocols for borrowing the presses:

- The presses will be made available at no cost to MSBA Members (in good standing) by signed Loan Agreement.
- Presses and trailers will be housed by Tommy Mullinix.
- Presses can be checked out for 1 week.
- A deposit of \$250 will be required and will be returned when the press is returned in good working order.
- There will be a \$50/week penalty for late return.
- Pick-up and return of the press is the responsibility of the individual borrowing the press (unless otherwise arranged with T. Mullinix).
- Borrower must demonstrate that they know how to use the press safely.
- Bags (square packs) can be purchased from Sheepman's Supply to be used with the presses (approx. \$20/bag).
- Interested MSBA members should contact Tommy Mullinix directly (shepherd1952@aol.com; 410-857-4387).

—Lee Langstaff



Since the Maryland Wool Pool is being suspended for 2017, I have put together information on the range of options available for matching shepherds to purchasers and sales processes, either through wool pools or direct sales.

For those who wish to connect with a traditional Wool Pool, there are a number of pools and within a reasonable distance for the majority of our members.

Most of these pools have not set a date at this time, but you will find all the contact info you need to pursue this option if you want to sell your wool to a pool. Keep in mind each pool has different preferred methods of packaging wool and some have limits on the number of trash bags you're allowed to bring. Please contact your pool early so you can be prepared at shearing with the proper bags, whether that is burlap sausage bags, plastic sausage bags, or nylon square packs.

Information for Pennsylvania wool pools is in the box below.

The Virginia Sheep Producers also puts on multiple wool pool collection sites during June

### Pennsylvania wool pools

Berks/Chester County Wool Pool  
Morgan Firestone  
1238 County Welfare Road, Ste. 110  
Lees Port, PA 19533  
Phone: 610-378-7961  
Email: maf5002@psu.edu

Bucks-Montgomery Co-op Wool Pool  
Rodney Gilbert  
471 Almshouse Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
Phone: 215-489-2247  
Fax: 215-489-2224  
Email: rodney.gilbert@delval.edu

Cumberland Coop Sheep  
& Wool Growers Association  
Donna Duncan  
1100 Claremont Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
Phone: 717-243-8069  
Email: dgd1@psu.edu

Mercer County Coop & Western PA  
Wool Pool  
Robert Calvert  
735 N Perry Highway  
Mercer, PA 16137  
Phone: 724-475-3119  
Fax: 724-662-1933  
Email: rec5@zoominternet.net

Somerset County Sheep  
& Wool Growers Wool Pool  
Scott Baer  
718 Geiger Road  
Friedens, PA 15541-8113  
Phone: 814-443-2402  
Fax: 814-445-5162  
Email: sabaer@live.com

and July. Keep an eye on their website or contact them directly for locations and dates:  
<http://www.vasheeproducers.com/index.html>

If you are closer to West Virginia, the West Virginia Shepherds Federation puts on wool pools at multiple sites in the state. For more information contact: Ronald Fletcher, 578 Cabin Run Road, Middlebourne, WV 26149, 304-758-4819.

I also am operating as a "wool pool" now, having signed on to be a buyer for Groenewold Fur and Wool. They buy many of the pools in the region already, including the Cumberland Coop Sheep and Wool Growers pool in Carlisle, Pennsylvania (which is the closest pool if you're used to coming to Timonium).

I can help simplify this process by picking up your wool, weighing it, and cutting you a check on the spot if necessary. I'm happy to buy from anyone and since I travel so much around the region, I'd be happy to pick up wool when I'm nearby. My goal is to make selling your wool as simple as possible.

I have some limited power to negotiate, to get you the best price possible. Contact me to arrange for a pickup or if you have any questions: 443-244-2702, [aeriedairy@yahoo.com](mailto:aeriedairy@yahoo.com), [www.chamelinshearing.org](http://www.chamelinshearing.org).



Because consumers always want to know more about where their food comes from, it is the responsibility of American sheep producers to meet production goals and capitalize on the American lamb brand.

An informative webinar on lamb meat quality, sponsored in part by the American Sheep Industry Association's Let's Grow Program, will be led by Dr. Travis Hoffman on April 25 beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern time.

Dr. Hoffman authored the Lamb Quality chapter of the 8th edition of the *Sheep Production Handbook* and focused his Ph.D. research on the 2015 National Lamb Quality Audit. He has a passion for understanding the production decisions that impact lamb quality; his focus on striving for production of the highest quality lamb and superior consumer satisfaction will be highlighted in the webinar.

The webinar is free and open to the public. To register, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9061362678810614275>.

## Wool pools for Maryland producers

**Emily Chamelin**

*Emily is MSBA's ASI representative*

## Meat quality focus of ASI webinar







are major nuisance pests that vector many diseases. Their feeding habits can affect your farm's bottom line by detouring the public from visiting and reducing animal health. They can cost you and your employees' time and money with doctor visits; if left untreated these diseases can lead to long-term chronic health issues and death. Topics covered include: pest biology, common arthropod-borne illnesses, personal prevention, and control methods.

#### June 28. Can I Use This Picture? Media Law.

Have you ever found an image on the Internet and used it online, in a presentation, on a blog or website? Was it okay to do that? We'll review the legal use of image copyright and provide sources where you can find free or low cost images. Learn how to protect, contribute or contribute your images.

#### July 26. Hiring Farm Employees: Process and Recommendations.

Employees are an important part of the business but can also be a big challenge. If you currently have employees, or have been considering adding a work force to your organization, this webinar is for you. The session will explore the hiring process and ways to acquire employees that best fit your operation.

## Upcoming Women in Agriculture webinars

For a complete list and to register, go to <http://extension.umd.edu/womeninag/webinars>.

The Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture is offering a series of Wednesday Webinars. Some dates and topics are:

#### April 26. Preparing for the Transition: What to Consider When Developing your Farm Transition Plan or Estate Plan.

A farm transition plan is an integral part of your farm business, along with your estate plan. This presentation will help you get started in developing your transition or estate plans to better prepare the next generation to taking over the family farm.

#### May 10. Bugs that Bite: Vector Arthropods and How to Avoid Them.

Mosquito and ticks



Beth Coles, the 26-year-old daughter of Mary Jeanne Coles (co-chair of the Fine Arts Competition) and her husband Charles Coles Jr. of Union Bridge, died unexpectedly on April 20 at her home.

Beth was a 2008 graduate of Glenelg High School where she was a member of the chorus, the concert choir and had been an AP scholar. She attended Howard Community College, studying to become a veterinary technician. She enjoyed working as a veterinary technician, and recently started a new position specializing in veterinary dentistry. She was an active 4-H member and was involved with the Howard County Fair in numerous activities.

She loved living and working on her family farm, especially helping during haying. She loved animals, especially her cat, two dogs, and her Southdown sheep. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Beth was a member of St. James United Methodist Church, West Friendship, where she was active in the youth group. She had been chief judge of elections in Howard County.

Beth Coles



In addition to her parents she is survived by two grandparents, sister, Katherine Coles of Union Bridge; brother, Charles M. Coles III of Union Bridge; aunts Janet Boyce and husband Steve and Linda Adams and husband Brett; an uncle, Matthew Wehland and spouse Joe Lynch.

The family will receive friends at Hartzler Funeral Home, 6 E. Broadway, Union Bridge, 7-9 p.m. on Monday, April 24 and at St. James. United Methodist Church, 12470 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville, and 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. April 26, at St. James United Methodist Church, Marriottsville, Rev. Pat Abell and Rev. Lynne Humphries-Russ. Interment will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Marriottsville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Howard County 4-H Allstars, c/o Margie Eyler, 18 Grimes Ct., Mt. Airy, MD 21771.



## Spring Lamb recipe

This month we feature an especially exciting recipe, from hard-bitten, crime-fighting detective RAMond Chandler.



### Lamb with Dill Sauce à la Raymond Chandler

From Kafka's Soup: A Complete History of World Literature in 14 Recipes. By Mark Crick. © 2006 by Mark Crick.

2 lb lean leg of lamb, cut into 2-in chunks  
1 onion, sliced  
1 carrot, cut into sticks  
1 T crushed dill seeds, or 3-4 sprigs fresh dill  
1 bay leaf  
12 peppercorns

½ t salt  
¾ cups chicken stock  
4 T butter  
1 T flour  
1 egg yolk  
3 T cream  
2 t lemon juice  
Fresh ground black pepper

1. I sipped on my whisky sour, ground out my cigarette on the chopping board and watched a bug trying to crawl out of the basin. I needed a table at Maxim's, a hundred bucks and a gorgeous blonde; what I had was a leg of lamb and no clues. I took hold of the joint. It felt cold and damp, like a coroner's handshake. I took out a knife and cut the lamb into pieces. Feeling the blade in my hand I sliced an onion, and before I knew what I was doing a carrot lay in pieces on the slab. None of them moved. I threw the lot into a pan with a bunch of dill stalks, a bay leaf, a handful of peppercorns and a pinch of salt. They had it coming to them, so I covered them with chicken stock and turned up the heat. I wanted them to boil slowly, just about as slowly as anything can boil. An hour and a half and a half-pint of bourbon later they weren't so tough and neither was I. I separated the meat from the vegetables and covered it to keep it moist. The knife was still in my hand but I couldn't hear any sirens.

2. In this town the grease always rises to the top, so I strained the juice and skimmed off the fat. I added more water and put it back on the heat. It was time to deal with the butter and flour, so I mixed them together into a paste and added it to the stock. There wasn't a whisk, so using my blackjack I beat out any lumps until the paste was smooth. It started to boil, so I let it simmer for two minutes.

3. I roughed up the egg yolk and cream and mixed in some of the hot sauce before putting the lot back into the pan. I put the squeeze on a lemon and it soon juiced. It was easy. It was much too easy, but I knew if I let the sauce boil the yolk was gonna scramble.

4. By now I was ready to pour the sauce over the meat and serve, but I wasn't hungry. The blonde hadn't showed. She was smarter than I thought. I went outside to poison myself, with cigarettes and whisky.

**April Fools!**



## Farmers' Coop celebrates 94th

The Farmers Cooperative Association in Frederick is celebrating its 94th. year in business with an open house from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13.

Products in the store will be 15% off, and you can save 94 cents a bag on many types of feed (if ordered by Tuesday, May 9, for pickup on that Saturday). A complimentary BBQ, hot dog, hamburger lunch will be served.

From I-70, take the South Street exit. The address is 820 E. South Street. For more information and to place feed orders, call the store at 301-663-3113.

### Need Scrapie Tags?

If you live in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, or Virginia, contact Chris Helbig, USDA APHIS Office, Richmond, Virginia, 1-804-343-2569. Have your 5-digit APHIS farm number, and the number on the last tag you have, at hand. Tags come in batches of 20; there is no cost.

Members of the Frederick County Sheep Breeders Association will promote lamb and wool at the Rose Hill Manor Spring Open House in Frederick on Saturday and Sunday, April 29 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and 30 (noon to 4 p.m.).

## Sheep at Rose Hill Manor

Sheep, lambs, and goats will be on display (as well as other livestock).

There will be shearing and spinning demonstrations, and a collaborative, hands-on wagon-wheel rug-making project. Rose Hill Manor Farm's is located at 1611 N. Market Street.



The Maryland Sheep Breeders Association in conjunction with the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival is offering two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to students who have been accepted or are in the process of applying for continuing education at a college, university, or technical/vocational school.

## 2017 MSBA scholarships offered

All academic majors will be considered, but priority will be given to agricultural majors and to those applicants who are members or whose families are members of the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association. Payment will be made upon provision of school acceptance documentation and/or evidence of attendance.

All applicants including the winners will be notified by mail. The monetary awards will be made directly into your account at the school you will be attending. You and your family will be our honored guests at the Annual Maryland Sheep Breeders dinner in October.

### Selection Criteria Basis:

1. Experience and involvement with the sheep industry (e.g. 4-H, FFA, Family Business, Make It with Wool, etc.)
2. Industry compatible career goals
3. Community service activities
4. Leadership and/or extra-curricular involvement
5. Official high school or college transcripts
6. Essay (500 words/topic listed on application)
7. Letters of recommendation (2).

Deadline for Submission: 7/1/2017.

Contact Liz Cavey, elizabethcavey@gmail.com, if you have questions.



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**Maryland Sheep Breeders Association**  
**2017 Scholarship Application**

Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you or your parent(s) current members of MSBA? \_\_\_\_\_

School you currently attend or plan to in the fall of 2017: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of school in the fall of 2017: \_\_\_\_\_

Major area of study: \_\_\_\_\_

High school attended and GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your career plan? \_\_\_\_\_

Please add additional pages to answer the following questions:

- 1.Explain your experience and involvement in the sheep industry via 4-H, FFA and/or Family Business.
- 2.Explain your career goals and why you have chosen them.
- 3.Community service (agriculture and non-agriculture related).
- 4.Leadership/Extra-curricular activities (agricultural and non-agricultural related).

Essay question for 2017: (typed, double-spaced, 500-word maximum):

*How has your experience with sheep and/or the sheep industry impacted your life?*

Please return completed applications and letters of recommendation postmarked by July 1, 2017, to:

Elizabeth Cavey  
2640 Marston Road  
New Windsor, MD 21776





## New lecture added!

Join Bill Sears in the show ring Saturday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Barn 7-8 for a free (no registration necessary) lecture on the right

**Fencing: Fast & Easy, Permanent & Economical**

fence for the right place and the right species. Sears is a longtime member of the American Society for Testing and Materials, and of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, with more than 40 years of fencing experience and nearly that many in the fencing business (and as a Festival exhibitor).

He will discuss the options for permanent and for temporary and portable fencing; the pros and cons of each type; and some techniques and tips to make life easier and fence performance better for your sheep, goat, poultry, cattle, and horse projects.

A recent fence booklet with detailed fence specifications, some hands on wire handling, a look at FAST FENCE™ electric netting and tape systems, and a question and answer period will all be provided. Come and learn from the experience and mistakes of an old pro.

Here's the regular workshop topics and times:

**Keeping Parasites at Bay** with Dr. Andrea Loar. 8:30-10 a.m. Friday, Show Ring. \$20 fee. Most producers are familiar with the FAMACHA system of parasite detection; more recently, the 5-Point Check protocol helps to detect a wider variety of parasites. Dr. Loar will discuss also discuss strategic deworming and fecal egg counts.

**What to do Before You Call the Vet: First Aid for Your Flock** with Dr. Andrea Loar. 10:30-noon Friday, Show Ring. \$20 fee. It happens to almost every shepherd. You come to the barn and a sheep is down or acting abnormally. Dr. Loar will take you through the steps to safely care for your animal, determine whether veterinary intervention is needed, simple first aid, and how to prepare your animal for your vet's arrival if simple first aid methods are not sufficient.

**Where Do I Start? What Do I Do? Shepherd Q&A** with Emily Chamelin-Hickman. 1:30-3 p.m. Friday, Show Ring, and noon-1:30 p.m.

Register online for the workshops: <http://sheepandwool.org/2017-festival/shepherd-workshops>.

Volunteers, oh yes! We need you! Not only do you become part of the Festival Family when you join the crew, you have many opportunities for personal improvement! There are three Signup Genius links for online registration, for different categories of tasks.

**Have we got a job for you!**

**Need some cross-training**—especially building upper body and core strength? Join Team Pen Setup and Takedown, meeting April 30, 1-hour shifts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (pot luck lunch afterward), and after the Festival, 5 to 6 and 6 to 7 p.m.



**Environmental activism** more your style? One-hour slots are available on each day of the Festival for collecting recycling for pickup. Mother Earth will thank you.

Looking to **sharpen your food service skills**? Setup, busing tables, and cleanup for the Lamb Cookoff, Saturday Shepherd's Feast, and Sunday breakfast is the job for you.

Go to the online signup for these tasks at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b44afaa2aa1f94-maryland>.

**Ready for ready to wear?** Join the Festival Bling sales force. On April 30, set up the shelving; May 3-5, stock the shelves (a shirt-folding fest); help with sales Saturday and Sunday; and help break down and box up unsold inventory from 5-7 p.m. Sunday. Sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c48afad2aaaf58-tshirts>.

**Is hospitality your middle name?** Join the smiling faces of the Festival's Greeters. Shifts are 1 ½ hours, rain or shine, at the Festival gates. (As a Festival Volunteer, you will be admitted free—you must be signed up by 10 p.m. Tuesday, May 2. To sign up go to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c45a4a82ca0fa7-2017>.

To our regulars—nice to see you again! To new volunteers: Welcome to the family!



Sunday, at the stage outside the Main Exhibition Hall. \$20 fee. This Q&A session will adapt to participants' needs. Breed selection, maximizing profit even in small flocks, hoof trimming fact and fiction, what to look for in a vet, good infrastructure, and barn and pasture setups that maximize grass and herd health. Bring photos of your sheep and barn setups for visual references in problem solving.



# Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, Inc.

## Officers & Directors

### Executive Committee

<b>President</b> Lee Langstaff 24020 Old Hundred Rd. Dickerson, MD 20842 301-908-9332 lmlangstaff@gmail.com	<b>Vice President</b> Jeff White 3610 Baker Road Westminster, MD 21157 410-746-5768 chestnutcreekfarm@gmail.com	<b>Secretary</b> Peter Austin P.O. Box 187 Ashton, MD 20861 301-774-7725 jha111@verizon.net	<b>Treasurer</b> Colleen Histon 1126 Slingluff Road New Windsor, MD 21776 240-388-6633 shepherdsmanorcreamery@verizon.net	
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### Ex Officio

<b>American Sheep Industry Association Liaison</b>	Emily Chamelin Hickman	3230 Eckard Road Westminster, MD 21157	443-244-2702	aeriedairy@yahoo.com
<b>Membership</b>	Kris Thorne	1130 Martin Drive Westminster, MD 21157	410-848-6971	msbamembershipchair@gmail.com
<b>Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</b>	Gwen Handler	935 Bloom Road Westminster, MD 21157	410-857-4387	gwenhandler@gmail.com
<b>Make It With Wool</b>	Judy Williamson	6924 Girl Scout Road Boonsboro, MD 21713	301-432-0281	judy10503@aol.com
<b>Wool Pool</b>	Vacant			

### Board Members

<b>2017 Directors</b>	Sarah Dixon	10188 Matthews Bridge Rd. Waynesboro, PA 17432	301-529-7079	medicdixon@hotmail.com
	Emily Chamelin Hickman	3230 Eckard Road Westminster, MD 21157	443-244-2702	aeriedairy@yahoo.com
	Brad Humbert	717 Muller Rd. Westminster, MD 21157-8100	410-596-1276	blhumbert@gmail.com
	Tom Mullinix	1120 Clear View Rd. Union Bridge, MD 21791-9618	410-857-4387	shepherd1952@aol.com
<b>2018 Directors</b>	Carolann McConaughy	8253 Dollyhyde Road Mt. Airy, MD 21771	301-829-6950	stillpointfarmsheep@gmail.com
	Patricia Sanville	4637 Cap Stine Road Frederick, MD 21703	240-357-1437	patriciasanville@gmail.com
	Karren Sowell	10634 Old Frederick Road Thurmont, MD 21788	301-898-7796	akksowell@comcast.net
	Allison Seyfert	816 Ontario St. Apt. C Havre de Grace, MD 20178	410-804-0492	mistyrosefarm@rocketmail.com
<b>2019 Directors</b>	Larry Fisher	935 Bloom Road Westminster, MD 21157	410-857-4387	larryfisher@verizon.net
	Laurie Hynson	744 Berrymans Lane Reisterstown, MD 21136	410-833-7302	chickenmama61@yahoo.com
	Andrew Keller	28301 Clarksburg Road Damascus, MD 20872	410-676-6287	vistaviewfarms@gmail.com
	Anne Schroeder	16760 Whites Store Road Boysds, MD 29841	301-755-8400	info@stargazingfarm.com
<b>Maryland Sheep News Editor</b>	Martha Polkey	14605 Chapel Lane Leesburg, VA 20176	703-727-5604	sheep@budiansky.com
<b>Website Coordinator</b>	Kris Thorne	1130 Martin Drive Westminster, MD 21157	410-848-6971	msbamembershipchair@gmail.com





Maryland Sheep Breeders Association  
1126 Slingluff Road  
New Windsor, MD 21776



Maryland Sheep Breeders Association:  
[marylandsheepbreeders.org](http://marylandsheepbreeders.org)

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival:  
[sheepandwool.org](http://sheepandwool.org)

like us!



The Maryland Sheep Breeders Association Board of Directors meets every other month. Meetings are open to members. For minutes of meetings and meeting dates and times, contact the MSBA Secretary, Peter Austin, [jha111@verizon.net](mailto:jha111@verizon.net).

## Membership application

### MARYLAND SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please include me in the MSBA Breeders Directory.

Web URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed(s): \_\_\_\_\_ No. Ewes: \_\_\_\_\_

What do you offer?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding stock       | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H club lambs                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamb for the freezer | <input type="checkbox"/> Ram leasing                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fleeces              | <input type="checkbox"/> Roving                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yarn                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts               | <input type="checkbox"/> Finished products & wearables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shearing services    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (attach details)        |

Send form and \$25 check made payable to MSBA to Kris Thorne,  
Membership Chair, 1130 Martin Drive, Westminster, MD 21157

## Join *the*

### MARYLAND SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

...and become part of an active organization that sponsors the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival (the premier event of its kind in the nation), the Maryland Wool Pool, Sheep Shearing School, various youth activities, and a variety of educational functions.

#### Here are sponsored events and activities for 2017:

- April 14-15: Beginning Shearing School
- May 6-7: MD Sheep & Wool Festival
- October 13: Annual Meeting & Dinner, Dutch's Daughter Restaurant, Frederick.

#### As a member you will:

- join an active and friendly community of shepherds.
- receive the quarterly *Maryland Sheep News* and keep up on events, get educational articles, and have a local place to advertise.
- pay a reduced commission on all fleeces sold at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival Fleece Show & Sale.
- be mailed a free copy of the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival catalog.

Annual membership/subscription fee: \$25. (If you bring wool to the Maryland Wool Pool, membership in MSBA is deducted on wool sales over \$40.) The membership year runs from October through September. Dues for membership received prior to June 1, 2017, will be accepted as paid through September 30, 2017. Dues received on or after June 1 will be accepted as paid through September 30, 2018.