



# Volunteers dive in for a successful June Maryland Wool Pool

I want to thank everyone who came out and volunteered their time (about 30 of you!) on June 17 to make this year's Maryland Wool Pool a success. Volunteers are vital ingredient that makes this pool profitable for the producers—we would not have a pool without you!

Fifty-eight producers came to the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium on that Wednesday to market their wool. At the end of the day, nearly 15 tons of fiber left the fairgrounds, bound for the Chargeurs in South Carolina.

Take a look at the table for the statistics for this year.

Volunteers packed the wool into 78 bales with an average weight of 380 pounds each. (Last year's 29,034 pounds ended up in 112 bales.) Nice work with the wool press, guys.

Thank you to Sheepman Supply Company for hauling the second press for us.

## 2015 Maryland Wool Pool Stats

Type	Lbs	Price/lb (\$)
Short white face	14,489	.72
Coarse whiteface	5,013	.78
Non-whiteface	300	.80
Medium whiteface	9,793	.88
Choice/fine	48	.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,643</b>	

If anyone has questions or suggestions regarding the pool please let me know. I would like to have a special meeting of the MSBA Board to discuss setting some guidelines to assure that anyone using the press is using it properly and safety, as well as to standardize new rules for who can receive wool packs, and whether to charge for them. (We can no longer purchase used packs, so the price for us has doubled.)

Please let me know if you would be interested in joining this committee to help write up guidelines.

—Emily Chamelin, Wool Pool Chair

*Top, volunteers pack wool; left, well-greased youth load a truck; below, Emily Chamelin and Kris Thorne at the take-in table. [Images courtesy Lee Langstaff]*



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The 2015 Maryland Lamb & Wool Queen and Princesses were chosen at the Sheep & Wool Festival May 1. These young ladies will represent the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association and help to promote sheep and wool during the coming year. Congratulations to Queen Anne Maxwell of Forest Hill, and Princesses Olivia Dutton of Frederick, and Brittany Lippy of Manchester. **Festival royalty!**

Here's to members' show success **C**ongratulations to the these MSBA members for their great performance in the sheep show ring at the 2015 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival May 2 and 3:

## MSWF Meetings

Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 6, 2016, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30 2016, 6:30 p.m.  
Committee dinner

Sunday, May 1 2016,  
Set-up day

May 7 & 8 2016.  
Festival!

Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 7 p.m. Wrap-up meeting

For more info: office@sheepandwool.org

• **Tom Dearstine, Emma's Daisyhill Farm** - Reserve Champion White Wool Medium Ram

• **Christine Crossman, Ewetopia Farm** - Champion White Wool Long Ram, First Place White Wool Long Flock

• **John & Kate Bostek, Roclans Farm** - Reserve Champion Natural Colored Fine Ram

• **Lee Langstaff, Shepherds Hey Farm** - First Place Natural Colored Long Flock, Best Natural Colored Long Fleece

• **Greg Deakin** - Champion Border Leicester Ram, First Place Border Leicester Flock

• **Geof Ruppert, Ruppert's Corriedales** - Best Corriedale Fleece

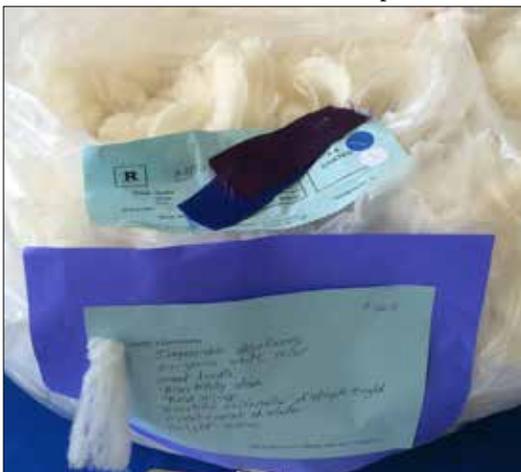
• **Diane Klingelhofer, Liberty Farms** - First Place Lincoln Flock, Reserve Champion Black Lincoln Ram

• **Deborah Vanderwende, Locust Grove Farm** - Champion Lincoln Ewe, Reserve Champion Lincoln Ewe, Reserve Champion Black Lincoln Ewe, First Place Black Lincoln Flock, Best Black Lincoln Fleece

*Judge's comments on the fleece show champion.*

And in the fleece show: A white Division II champion Cormo fleece from **Geof Ruppert** took Supreme Champion Fleece; a natural colored Merino fleece from **Martha Polkey** took Division I champion; **Peggy Howell's** Corriedale fleece took Best Maryland Fleece; **Devlin Kennedy** showed the Best 4-H Fleece (Romney); and **Carol McConaughy** received the Best Leicester Longwool Fleece award.

For complete festival results: [sheepandwool.org/2015-festival/results](http://sheepandwool.org/2015-festival/results).



Anne, a MSWF princess in 2013, raises Shropshires in Harford County. Olivia raises Shetland, Southdown, and Suffolk crossbred sheep on her family's Frederick County farm. Brittany is a past winner in the Maryland Make It With Wool competition.

Youth from several states took home awards from the Junior Sheep & Goat Skillathon held May 3 at the Festival.

The first place senior was **Matt Ferrari** from Virginia. **Maggie**

**Skillathon winners**

**Goodmuth** from Howard County was second. **Charlie Sasscer** from St. Mary's County was third. **Maggie Goodmuth, Lauren Dallas,** and **Jennifer Brigantae** made up the Montgomery-Howard County team—first place in the senior division.

The first place intermediate was **Hannah King** from North Carolina. **Kallam Latham** from Frederick County placed second. **Madison Shaw** from Pennsylvania was third. The first place intermediate team was the Virginia team composed of **Ryleian Travers, Hayley Seabright, Cyle Dehaven,** and **Chet Boden.** Frederick County had the second place intermediate team.

The first place junior was **Jessica Martin** from Frederick County. **Jordan Kelly** from Virginia placed second and **Marlie Snyder** from Washington County placed third. The first place junior team was the Frederick County team, composed of **Jessica Martin, Kiandra Strickhouser,** and **Caroline Clark.** Calvert/St. Mary's County had the second place junior team.

Special awards were given to the junior, intermediate, and senior individuals with the top scores in the stations pertaining to fiber. Junior winner, **Jordan Kelly;** intermediate, **Hannah King** (with **Madison Shaw** a close second); senior individual **Jennifer Brigantae** from Howard County. In close competition were **Ian Sanville** from Frederick County and **Sabrina Dobbins** from St. Mary's County.

Many people regard sheep and hot weather as a bad combination, but in my 15 years of working with sheep in some pretty hot and humid situations, I have found that sheep can be perfectly happy in hot weather as long as the shepherd keeps a few things in mind when making management decisions.

New shepherds sometimes worry about whether their sheep (even those shorn in spring) will be too hot when our mid-Atlantic summers arrive. And they worry more about the suffering their flock may endure if, by the time the heat kicks in late June or early July, they've not been shorn.

But let's consider a few things before we frantically call a shearer and insist he or she come on a 95-degree day.

First let's talk a bit about how a sheep works—at least most breeds of sheep, which depend upon us to remove their fleeces on a regular basis.

Ovine skin contains thousands of wool-producing follicles, and glands that produce lanolin. Sheep also have sweat glands, but those don't make for an effective cooling mechanism. (The increased sweat in hot weather does add to the moisture in fleeces shorn then, however.)

But the fleece itself insulates the sheep's body, helping to maintain a constant body temperature, providing protection from heat and cold. That insulating barrier allows the animal to thrive in all the conditions to which humans expose their flocks—from tropical to sub-arctic regions. Here's to the incredible adaptability of sheep!

Here's another relevant detail of sheep physiology: Sheep as ruminants are fermentation digesters; fermentation generates heat. When a ewe begins to eat, she makes heat, and her heart rate increases. Increased heat production can continue for up to 2 hours. You may notice your sheep eat less during hot spells, and that they eat primarily at cooler times of day (early morning or late evening). If you are feeding grain during hot weather, pay attention to these patterns—feed early or late, so the heat doesn't dampen their enthusiasm.

Particularly greedy animals will sometimes eat despite the heat, and may show signs of distress. What does that look like?

The normal body temperature of a sheep hovers around 102.3 °F and ranges from 100.9 to 103.8 °F. If body temperature rises above the normal range, metabolism begins to increase. Sheep that are warm breathe more rapidly. If their temperature continues to rise, they begin to pant. Panting will increase heat production due to contracting muscles. If these body temperatures continue to rise uncontrollably, enzymes in the



animal's body will cease to function and the animal ultimately will die.

In hot weather the primary cause of sheep overheating is excess handling.

If forced to move in hot weather, sheep heat up. And that brings us back to shearing.

## Hot weather wool: Summer shearing

If you have missed the boat on spring shearing and find yourself panicking as the thermometer rises, realize that shearing sheep in high heat is much worse for their health and well-being than full-fleeced sheep just hanging out in the shade—until a cool day or a break in the weather come fall.

Sheep that are obese or that have respiratory ailments are especially susceptible to death from heat stress—and it is not unusual to have sheep die without warning. Shearers who tell you they do not want to shear on really hot days are not just blowing you off—they don't want to have to watch a sheep die in mid-shear.

And shearing in hot weather is not just bad for the sheep. It can be dangerous for the shearer. On a hot, humid day, shearing in the shade or in a barn doesn't do much to reduce the stress. Some barns are oven-like; add ammonia from urine, plus stagnant air, and the result can be debilitating.

If it must be done, provide your shearer with fans, cold drinks, and encourage breaks (and be prepared to pay a shearer for the increased amount of time it will take to get the job done). Help make an already difficult job a bit more bearable.

Heat exhaustion and stress can sneak up on you fast, so never work alone and check in with people around you frequently to make sure to catch early symptoms of heat exhaustion—dizziness, severe

*Emily Chamelin is a full-time sheep shearer working primarily in the mid-Atlantic region.*

*Ahhh, shelter. Just the place to be on a hot summer's day. [Image courtesy raisingsheep.net]*



## Management ►

### Management Calendar

#### August 6-8

Katahdin Hair Sheep International Expo & Sale. Rustic Lodge, Indiana, PA, [www.katahdins.org](http://www.katahdins.org)

#### August 11

Pasture Management Field Day: Mob Grazing with Sheep & Cattle. 3-6:30 p.m. Rappahannock County, Virginia. <http://www.pecva.org/events/pasture-management-field-day-mob-grazing>

#### August 22

West Virginia Performance-Tested Ram & Buck Sale. WVU Reymann Memorial Farm, Wardensville, WV. [www.facebook.com/wvrambucktest](http://www.facebook.com/wvrambucktest)

#### Sept. 26

Southwest AREC Sheep Field Day and Ram Test Sale. Glade Spring, VA. [www.apsc.vt.edu/extension/sheep/swarec-ram-program/index.html](http://www.apsc.vt.edu/extension/sheep/swarec-ram-program/index.html)

headache, nausea, hot, dry skin without sweat, high pulse rate, fatigue, slurred speech. If untreated, heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke, a life-threatening condition.

The overarching principle for a hot weather shearing day is this: Keep calm and minimize stress; keep things simple.

Talk to your shearer, emphasize you want to do it right and listen to what they tell you! If they say to lock them up the night before, do it. If they want their stomachs empty, oblige. (Don't withhold water.)

There is a good reason shearers ask you to follow certain protocol. If you don't understand...ask. And don't assume you are the exception to these rules. You might get away with bad practices once or twice or maybe even for years, but eventually something will go wrong.

Arrange to shear early in the day; be ready to go when the shearer arrives. Avoid moving sheep around unnecessarily. Translation: Pen the sheep the night before—remember, moving muscles make heat. A bit of vegetable matter in the fleeces from the pen is better than dangerously overheated sheep.

Keep your sheep and your shearer safe on hot days!

After shearing, the flock is not out of the woods—I mean the heat. Your shorn sheep have lost their insulating layer of wool, and now are prey to insect bites and bother as well as the heat. Provide them with some protection—shade and shelter at the very least—until they can adjust and grow back a bit of fleece.



*And now for a drink of water.*

I'll wrap this up by saying that sheep are perfectly adapted to the climate on the East Coast—the hot humid summers and the cold muddy winters.

We have many breeds that were developed exclusively in our region and prosper in the climate we have. Even breeds that are better adapted to other climates (such as Highland breeds or Texas fine wools) can succeed in our region with proper management and attention.

We pretty much have the ideal area in which to raise sheep.

So don't stress so much about the hot weather, enjoy the summer, and take a few hints from your sheep: When it's really hot, eat a little less, drink a little more, nap during the hottest part of the day, hang out in the shade as much as possible—and wear some wool.



The moist conditions this spring and into the summer have made for luxurious pastures, allowing sheep to graze taller stands and literally to stay “above” the parasites on the plants.

**Summer  
2015:  
Pasture,  
parasites,  
and hay**

“With more forage growth there should be less incidence of parasitism,” says Jeff Semler, Senior Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, at the Western Maryland Research & Education Center.

If, however, those lush pastures are grazed too closely, the advantage is lost: “With the moisture comes better conditions for parasites, so overgrazing can be even more detrimental.”

When the sheep eat down to where the larvae lurk, thousands are there waiting to be ingested.

The moisture and plant growth also means animals grazing more, and depositing manure

and urine that further enrich the soil structure, Semler says. Graziers who have worked to keep pastures clipped, removing seedheads to encourage vegetative growth, have added more organic matter added back into the soil structure, giving soil health another boost this year.

With the surge now slowing with the drier weather at the end of July, shepherds should be prepared to rest pastures that are getting short—moving sheep to new paddocks or drylots with hay.

Haying has been a challenge in many areas. “Producers have had a lot trouble trying to find a dry window to make hay,” says Terry Poole, Frederick County Extension agent. “The end result will be a good bit of over mature and/or hay that has been rained on.”

”But we should have more cuttings of grass hay this year, so maybe the later cuttings can be made dry,” Semler says.

Poole agrees that plenty of hay should be available, but livestock producers should pay close attention to the quality. “There may be some good deals out there; poor quality hay can be fed as long as it is supplemented properly so as to adjust for nutritional deficiencies.”

Local extension agents can provide information on how to sample hay properly for testing, where to send samples, and which tests to have done; some offices also have hay probes or augers to loan for extracting samples.

With the bales stacked in the barn, the next task is preparing pastures for stockpiling.

“With this weather, it is also a good time to stockpile forage for fall and early winter grazing,” Semler says. “While fescue stockpiles best, other cool season grasses like orchard grass and bromegrass can be stockpiled.”

To stockpile, stop grazing in early August and allow the regrowth to accumulate. Graze these acres after a killing frost. Semler says. Graze orchard grass and bromegrass first and then the fescue, as its nutritional quality holds up longer into the winter.

**S**ericea lespedeza, an erect, deep-rooted perennial legume that persists for many years, is one “natural” product that does in fact have scientifically proven anthelmintic properties. Research has shown it inhibits growth and survival of stomach and intestinal parasites, including coccidia.

Tannins are the active compounds in the leaves that suppress the parasites. Up to a certain level in the daily ration, tannins also increase the amount of protein bypassing the rumen, thus making ruminants use their feed more efficiently. Other pasture species contain tannins, but the high levels in

**Lespedeza for summer pasture and parasite suppression**

**Condensed tannin content in different forage species\***

Forage	Condensed tannins, g/kg dry matter
Birdsfoot trefoil	48
Big trefoil	77
Alfalfa	0.5
Sericea lespedeza	46-152
Perennial ryegrass	1.8
Chickory	3.1
Crabgrass/tall fescue mixture	3.2

\* Table adapted from Tools for Managing Internal Parasites in Small Ruminants: Sericea Lespedeza, *National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service*, [www.attra.ncat.org](http://www.attra.ncat.org)



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## Management ►

*Lespedeza in a pasture, below, and bottom, pelleted and ground hay.*

*[Images from Auburn University Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department (top), and The American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (bottom)]*



lespedeza make it a concentrated source for use in a parasite management program—either as forage, hay, or pellets.

Establishing lespedeza in a warm-season forage pasture on your farm is one option. (Its peak growth takes place from June through August.) AU Grazer™, an improved variety developed by Auburn University, tolerates grazing better (and is more palatable) than other varieties.

Lespedeza pellets also are available as a special order (about \$23 for a 50-lb bag). Pellets are mixed with molasses to encourage consumption.

Sheep may need an introduction to this new feed: If they don't readily accept the pellets, feed at a rate of 50/50 with your current ration for a few days, then 72/25, then 100 percent. After 7-10 days, the animals should willingly eat them.

Sims Brothers in Alabama produces AU Grazer pellets, and their product is offered locally through Countryside Organics, Waynesboro, Virginia, which has several resellers in the area (as well as a truck that has drop-off sites in central and northern Virginia).

In Maryland: Daily Dose Equine, 11339 Liberty Road, Frederick, [jgeyer@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jgeyer@ix.netcom.com), 443-

745-0207, deliveries every third week;

In Northern Virginia: Dayspring Farm, 21388 Steptoe Hill Rd., (northeast of) Middleburg, Virginia, [dayspringfarm.com](http://dayspringfarm.com), deliveries monthly. The truck from Waynesboro makes weekly stops in Leesburg, Lovettsville, and Berryville.

How much to feed? The rate is 2 to 2.5 percent of the animal's body weight per animal per day. The rate can be adjusted for serious parasite infestations or to maintain parasite control. The anthelmintic activity of the tanins requires that it remains in the digestive tract, so regular feeding of the pellets is important, especially during hot, humid months in which parasites are surging. Since young and vulnerable animals have a higher risk of infection due to immature immune systems, they are the best group for the focus of this feeding program.

### Selected references

*Fact sheets, articles, and research papers on lespedeza:* [www.wormx.info/#!sl/c2b8](http://www.wormx.info/#!sl/c2b8)

*Establishing sericea lespedeza stands:* [www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/forages/species/Sericea-Lespedeza.html](http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/forages/species/Sericea-Lespedeza.html)

*Sims Brothers:* [simsbrothers.com/ourProducts.htm](http://simsbrothers.com/ourProducts.htm)

**Why didn't deworming work?**

**Dr. Steve Hart** is an Extension Goat Specialist at Langston University.

Condensed with permission from the Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control. For the complete article go to [www.wormx.info/#!improvefam/csqa](http://www.wormx.info/#!improvefam/csqa)

**D**eworming animals with FAMACHA® scores of 4 or 5 should result in the improvement of scores by at least one when checked two weeks later. What if it doesn't? Here are possible reasons, from the most to the less likely.

**Are the affected animals lactating?** Nutritional competition between milk production and making blood may keep the animals anemic until they are in late lactation or until weaning. Heavy pasture contamination will quickly reinfect the ewes. Rotate them to a new pasture.

**Have just one pasture?** When there is a lot of summer rain, infective larvae accumulate on pasture. Find some other place to put your sheep or goats on for at least two months while infective larvae die off. Is there an overgrown pasture that a neighbor owns? Seek access to it.

**Have your farm's parasites developed resistance to the drugs?** We use FAMACHA® to reduce the rate of development of dewormer resistance. But resistance can still develop. The most common source of dewormer resistance is introduction of them with new animals: the new elite doeling or ewe that you acquire. Resistant worms will spread despite FAMACHA®. Deworm new animals coming onto your place with different classes of dewormer and take a

fecal sample a week or two later to make sure that you have killed all the worms.

**Liver flukes?** These are parasites that eat their way through the liver, consuming blood and causing bleeding and persistently high FAMACHA® scores. Most dewormers do not kill liver flukes, with the exception of Valbazen®, which kills adult liver flukes, and the Clorsulon in Ivermec Plus, which kills immature and adult liver flukes. Fluke eggs are generally not found in the feces until the infection has been going on a while. Traditional fecal flotation methods often don't detect fluke eggs—specialized tests will. Your local vet will know whether flukes are common in your area and can advise on control.

**Sucking lice** can also cause anemia, especially in young animals. The dewormers Ivomec®, Eprinex®, and Cydectin® will control sucking lice. **Coccidiosis** also can cause anemia. Without a fecal examination, it is difficult to determine if diarrhea is caused by worms or coccidia or both. Wormy animals are susceptible to coccidiosis and may need to be treated for coccidiosis to recover from worms.

A lesser cause of persistent anemia is **Johnes' disease**, a chronic bacterial disease that causes animals to waste away. More information can be found at [www.johnes.org/goats/faqs.html](http://www.johnes.org/goats/faqs.html).

Future Harvest-CASA is updating its *Amazing Grazing Directory* of pasture-based farms in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. **The deadline for submission is Thursday, August 6.** Members of the organization can be listed for no extra charge.

## Get Listed in grass-fed directory

(Membership is \$45 for individuals and \$70 for families.)

The directory is provided free of charge to consumers

looking for sources of locally and sustainably produced food choices in the Chesapeake Region; it is CASA's most requested publication. The directory promotes the benefits of eating meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products from grass-fed animals. Direct-market farmers raising grass-fed animals also use the directory to promote their own businesses and those of their neighbors.

The directory lists farms offering pasture-based animals (primarily grass-fed) and that are selling product directly to consumers. Producers must pledge that their products are raised without added hormones or antibiotics. Farms listed are asked to describe their production process. You may be contacted by our staff for verification.

The directory includes contact information, product and farm descriptions, and a farm location map. The most recent edition can be downloaded at [www.futureharvestcasa.org](http://www.futureharvestcasa.org) (click on Amazing Grazing Update). The application is available at [www.futureharvestcasa.org/resources/maryland-grazers-network](http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/resources/maryland-grazers-network).



The new MSBA website is under construction, and the volunteers working on it would like to feature farm images from MSBA members. Help promote sheep and wool, and feature your farm. Send your high-resolution (300 dpi) images of sheep, products, and rural views to Kris Thorne at [thornefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:thornefarm@yahoo.com).

**Farm pix wanted**

## FOR SALE

**BORDER COLLIE.** Two-year old female, smooth coat, looking for a working home on a sheep farm. Grace is sound of structure and temperament. Accustomed to being a house dog, a reliable dog for sheep management chores, with several months' training to provide her with a solid foundation. \$2,000. Contact Nancy Starkey, [NCStarkey@aol.com](mailto:NCStarkey@aol.com)



## Marketing

Eid al Adha is a celebration that commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) who was willing to sacrifice his son Ismail for Allah. Animals that are sacrificed for this celebration must be Halal. The sacrificed animal is often shared with extended family

### The market for Lamb: Eid al Adha

members and some may be given away to the needy.

Many Muslims will look for an animal that is unblemished—not docked or castrated, no torn ears, and if horned, horns unbroken, and of course healthy: no wounds or lameness.

Some Muslims find animals acceptable if they have been castrated with a burdizzo or if the castration wound has completely healed. Heavier lambs and goats are preferred for this holiday, since the meat is shared. Yearlings are preferred, but older sheep and goats are also acceptable. Weights should be heavier than 60 pounds. From: [extension.psu.edu/courses/sheep/marketing/marketing-lamb-and-goat-for-holidays/islamic-holidays](http://extension.psu.edu/courses/sheep/marketing/marketing-lamb-and-goat-for-holidays/islamic-holidays)



There's still time to send your entry in to be considered in the contest for the new Maryland Sheep Breeders Association logo.

The logo can be in black or in color (but if color, submit a grayscale version as well). Submissions can be hard copy or electronic (jpeg or eps), and should be suitable for use on printed matter and in electronic communications.

The logo graphic should include the words "Maryland Sheep Breeders Association." Submit your entries by September 1, 2015. The winner will be announced at the 2015 MBSA annual meeting in October, and will receive a free 2016 MSWF t-shirt.

Send your entries to Dawn Richardson, 2710 A Monument Road, Myersville, MD 21773; [grindstoneridgefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:grindstoneridgefarm@yahoo.com).

**Logo contest deadline Sept. 1**

## Marketing Calendar

### Aug. 2-8

Maryland Farmers' Market Week. [www.marylandsbest.net](http://www.marylandsbest.net)

### Aug. 17

Special lamb & goat sale, Farmers' Live-stock Exchange, Winchester, VA. Take-in 8-11 a.m. Sale 2 p.m.

### Sept. 21

Special lamb & goat sale, Farmers' Live-stock Exchange, Winchester, VA. Take-in 8-11 a.m. Sale 2 p.m.

### Sept. 23-26

Eid al Adha - Muslim Festival of the Sacrifice

### Sept. 26-27

Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival. Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds, Berryville, Virginia. Fleece Sale take-in, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com](http://www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com).

### Oct. 3-4

Fall Fiber Festival and Montpelier Sheepdog Trials, Montpelier Station, Virginia. Fleece Sale. Check website for entry details, [fallfiberfestival.org/](http://fallfiberfestival.org/)



# National news & views

flocks under 100 head account for 17% of the nation's sheep population. Texas and California are the biggest guns and the other western states could make us seem insignificant.

**Schoenian:** I do not disagree. However, it is the big operations that provide the majority of funding for ASI, as well as for the American Lamb Board. After all, dues and check-off are based on sheep numbers, not numbers of shepherds—or consumers. In addition, compliance with the check-off is much less with the nontraditional markets, including from those who sell to the ethnic markets. Getting respect for the Eastern sheep industry, as well as the ethnic markets, remains an uphill battle, although I do believe we are making some inroads. But it's not just a geography thing, it's large operations (all commercial) versus small operations (many not commercial). Then there's the purebred, club lamb, and niche wool sectors. Our industry is very segmented.

But although they may grow the critters, the population centers hold the consumers. American lamb consumption has declined. What hasn't declined is the ethnic makeup of cities and I challenge anyone to name a viable immigrant minority that doesn't consume lamb or goat.

Those populations aren't going home, and they eat lamb and have big families. In short, the East Coast is important to ASI.

**Board member:** You being the ASI rep, I'd like to see addressed four areas that I see as important to East Coast flock owners.

**Affordable necropsies:** I remember when necropsies were either free or affordable. Now it costs more to have a lamb death identified than the price of several animals. Since small ruminant production is widely discounted as marginal compared to hog, chicken, cattle, and horses, I feel that we've been the low-hanging fruit when it came to ag department budget cuts. Since necropsies became financially untenable, animals die and I don't know why. I feel every sheep or goat raiser who has a nutrient management system in place ought to get 2 or 3 free necropsies a year.

**Schoenian:** This is a state issue, not one ASI can address from the national level. With budget issues, I don't see this changing. I, for one, don't have necropsies done by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Due to budget restrictions, I believe they lack staff and expertise. I use the Pennsylvania diagnostic lab in Harrisburg or I have a local vet do the necropsy. If you get useful results from a lab, I personally do not believe that the price of necropsies is too high. My concern is paying for the necropsy and

Susan Schoenian is the new ASI representative for the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association.

She replaces Joan Hobbs, a Montgomery County sheep producer, who has been Maryland's ASI representative for many years. Thanks to Joan for her many years of hard work and commitment to the Maryland and national sheep industries.

New ASI representative for Maryland

Susan is a sheep producer from Washington County. She is also the Sheep & Goat Specialist for University of Maryland Extension. She also serves on the Productivity Improvement Team of the U.S. Sheep Roadmap Project. She has received funding from ASI's Let's Grow Program to support her extension programming efforts.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is the national organization representing the interests of more than 79,500 sheep producers located throughout the United States. From East to West, farm flocks to range operations, ASI works to represent the interests of all producers.

ASI is a federation of 45 state sheep associations as well as individual members. All ASI officers, board of director members and council and committee members serve as volunteers—without pay. Funding for ASI comes from member dues and individual donations. Individual and state member dues are 0.035 cents per stock sheep and \$8 per member and must be renewed yearly.

Contact Susan at [sschoen@umd.edu](mailto:sschoen@umd.edu), 301-432-2767 x343 if there are issues you think ASI should address.



Retiring ASI representative Joan Hobbs, top, and new representative Susan Schoenian, above.

An MSBA board member, upon Susan's acceptance of representing Maryland producers, put his thoughts and questions about ASI to her. Below is their exchange.

**Board member:** Thank you for stepping up to serve as our representative. I'm sure you can get someone's attention and encourage credibility to our segment of the industry. It seems to me that ASI is pretty much dominated by the big Western operations. Perhaps that's well and proper, since

ASI Q & A

getting no useful information in return, e.g., being told before the carcass is off-loaded that it died from worms! Small ruminants have not been singled out by MDA. Fees are based on the weight of the animal. There are some exceptions with poultry due to avian influenza.

**Board member:** Reasonable guidelines for on-farm slaughter. On-farm slaughter should be made possible without living in fear of having the feds shut down the operation. Simple and doable guidelines regarding waste, limitations, and sensitivities should allow this.

**Schoenian:** On-farm slaughter is complicated. Federal regulations do not prohibit on-farm slaughter. The personal exemption clause in the regulations allows a producer to slaughter his own animal for consumption by his family and non-paid guests and employees. However, federal regulations fail to address on-farm slaughter (on your farm) by the buyer (customer).

In my opinion, the issue of on-farm slaughter is best addressed at the county and state levels—not at the national level, as the states and counties can always make more stringent regulations. For example, some states prohibit on-farm slaughter (by the customer), even though the feds do not. Vermont passed legislation that allows the on-farm slaughter and sale of the meat from red meat animals (of so much poundage). Environmental issues with on-farm slaughter are probably of greater concern to regulators than food safety and animal welfare issues. Why do you think it's so hard to have mobile slaughter?

**Board member:** Recognition of the importance of ethnic demand. I can't tell you how many otherwise decent, up-standing salt-of-the-earth farmers are prejudiced against immigrants. If they knew who was consuming their product and buttering their bread, maybe they wouldn't be so quick towards insensitivity and insult.

**Schoenian:** I do not disagree, but this is not an issue that ASI can address. It is a people issue, one that I try to address frequently. I believe that most producers know that sheep and goats are consumed predominately by people of specific ethnicities and religions; but unfortunately, this doesn't make them respect these other cultures and religions. It doesn't help that the news and social media give mostly negative coverage of immigrants and people of certain religious faiths.

**Board member:** More funding for parasite control. Parasite control sort of falls under the first topic, in that being considered a discounted agricultural entity, dewormers for sheep and goats are a low-priority concern for big pharma. The small flock owner has to constantly police

his animals and jump through hoops to keep the parasites at bay. Try explaining to prospective flock owners what they have to do to stay ahead of parasites and they're more apt to raise grapes or Belgian endive.

**Schoenian:** A great deal of resources have already been devoted to small ruminant parasite control. I have been teaching integrated parasite management (FAMACHA) workshops for more than 10 years, including for the past several years at the Festival. Any producer who has failed to attend one of these workshops has no one to blame but himself. Our Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test is dedicated to studying internal parasitism.

I am a member of the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control, formed (more than 10 years ago) in response to the widespread development of anthelmintic-resistant worms. Consortium members have received a considerable amount of funding for research and extension programs pertaining to internal parasitism, including research with various non-traditional alternatives. I recently updated the consortium's web site (wormx.info), which serves as the premier source of information on this topic.

Sheep producers are fortunate in that they have an FDA-approved dewormer in each drug class. Goat producers aren't so lucky. There's a new dewormer in the pipeline (Zolvix®). The research was completed in the United States. Not sure why it's not on the market yet, but I think it's the company that manufactures the drug that is the hold-up. Zolvix® will kill worms that are resistant to all the other dewormers—at least until we over- and misuse it. Resistance has already been reported in other countries.

Parasites are a major obstacle to raising small ruminants. But there are options, beyond drugs.



*A new dewormer! And... surprise! Resistance to a new dewormer!*

**Zolvix resistance in Queensland**  
Zolvix (Active ingredient: monepantel) resistance in Barbers Pole was first reported a few months ago in a goat herd in New South Wales. Now monepantel resistance has been confirmed from a *Haemonchus contortus* strain (Barbers Pole) isolated from sheep on a property in south western

In January 2015, a federal district judge ruled that manure (stored or applied to a field) could become a solid waste under federal environmental laws. At the same time, a consortium of environmental and animal welfare groups filed a lawsuit against the EPA for failure to act on their petition to regulate ammonia gas releases from animal feeding operations. The law as it relates to these operations is now in a state of flux.

At noon on August 6, Dr. Shannon Ferrell, Oklahoma associate professor of agricultural economics, Oklahoma State University, will discuss the implications of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Clean Air Act on animal agriculture, recent litigation, and other legal issues.

**Webinar to address ag legal issues**

Register at [www.livestockcrawebinar.eventbrite.com](http://www.livestockcrawebinar.eventbrite.com) for this free webinar.



# Maryland news

## Shearing school

*Shearing school student Erin O'Donnell launches in with confidence after instruction.*



The 2015 Maryland Shearing School, April 17-18 in Westminster, gathered an excellent group of students this year, accepting 15 out of 30 applicants. The class was run by Aaron Geiman and assisted by Emily Chamelin. Linda Shane and Lee Langstaff were also there, helping to educate students about wool classing and wool handling.

Information about the 2016 shearing school should come out around the first of the year. Get your applications in early. Information will be published in this newsletter as well as the Maryland Small Ruminant Page ([www.sheepandgoat.com](http://www.sheepandgoat.com)).

Some changes may be in store for next year's school, as the American Sheep Industry Association expands requirements for shearing schools it helps sponsor.

The Maryland Shearing School is also on the hunt for new farms to host the school at. Interested shepherds will have their sheep shorn for free and you will be helping to remedy the shearer shortages happening in our region. All students shear under direct supervision of experienced shearers.

If you are interested in hosting the shearing school, please contact Aaron Geiman at [adgeiman75@gmail.com](mailto:adgeiman75@gmail.com) or Emily Chamelin at [aeriedairy@yahoo.com](mailto:aeriedairy@yahoo.com).



## Anti-meat activists at lamb sale

An animal rights activist, tailed by a partner capturing the experience on video, attempted to disturb the feeder lamb show during the Sheep & Wool Festival in May.

The individual made statements protesting the eating of meat, and sought to tempt participants into an altercation. Security was called, escorted the individuals from the fairgrounds, and prevented them from attempting to reenter through another gate.

Got fleeces you're proud of? The Howard County Fair's Fleece & Fiber Show is the place to exhibit them this August.

The show's goal is to increase producer awareness of wool quality, encourage the production of better wool, and educate the public about wool. All fleeces will be judged on hand-spinning quality. Some facts about the show:

**Howard Fair wants your fleeces**

- There are divisions for white wool, natural colored wool, llama, alpaca and mohair.
- Entries are open to residents of Howard County and the adjoining counties.
- Entries can be delivered to the Farm & Garden building on Friday, August 7 between 6 and 9 p.m. or on Saturday, August 8 between 9 a.m. and noon. Pre-registration is not required.
- Complete contest rules are on [www.howard-countyfair.org](http://www.howard-countyfair.org); click on "Fair Book."



Maryland Sheep News is published four times a year by the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, Inc., and is sent to MSBA members. See back page for membership application.

### 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

Acceptable formats are PDFs, Word docs or jpegs.

### Issue deadlines for ads and copy:

Winter Dec. 15      Summer June 25  
Spring March 25      Fall Sept. 15

### Send copy to :

**Martha Polkey, Editor**  
[sheep@budiansky.com](mailto:sheep@budiansky.com)

### Send payment to:

Treasurer, MSBA  
1126 Slingluff Lane  
New Windsor, MD  
21776

# Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, Inc. Officers & Directors

## Executive Committee

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## Ex Officio

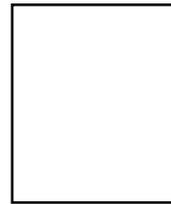
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Maryland Sheep Breeders Association  
1126 Slinghuff Lane  
New Windsor, MD 21776



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 meets every other month on the second Monday. Meetings are open to members. For minutes of meetings and meeting times, contact the MSBA Secretary, Lee Langstaff, [lmangstaff@gmail.com](mailto:lmangstaff@gmail.com).

## 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 2015:

- April 17 & 18: Beginning Shearing School
- May 2-3: MD Sheep & Wool Festival (Check out the free Shepherd Seminars and Shepherd & Fiber Arts Workshops)
- June 17: Maryland Wool Pool (Timonium, State Fairgrounds)
- Date TBD Annual Meeting & Dinner

#### 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.
- receive a 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, 2015, will be accepted as paid through September 30, 2015. Dues received on or after June 1 (including dues deducted at the Maryland Wool Pool and the MD Sheep & Wool Festival) will be accepted as paid through September 30, 2016.