



Feasibility study underway for new ag processing facilities in Frederick County

As the momentum of the local food movement sharply increased during the COVID pandemic, what quickly became apparent (especially to those direct-marketing meat) was the dearth of local processing facilities—the bottleneck that hindered more local products from going into local refrigerators and freezers.

Now Frederick County has launched an effort to address the problem. A three-phase, \$115,000 feasibility study for an agriculture innovation center that would include processing facilities for regional agricultural products is now underway.

Impetus for the study began following roundtable discussions between local farmers and county economic development department staff, about how best the county could help promote profitability in the county’s agricultural sector and how to address deficits.

Those discussions were informative, said Katie Stevens, Director of Workforce Development and Agriculture Business for the Office of Economic Development—up to a point. “The problem is that when you get 10 people in a room, you get 10 ideas about what should be done.”

Agricultural and other partnering organizations in this effort include the Farm Bureau, the county’s Agriculture Business Council, Grow & Fortify, and Farm to School Frederick.

The first phase of the study will consist of online surveys of consumers to gather data about what local products they desire, and a series of focus groups with those involved in local agriculture. Both are set to begin this summer. The product of the second phase will be recommendations for the best facilities to boost local agriculture, and a broad business plan.

The final phase will consist of a more detailed business plan and include three potential sites for the facilities. Results should be presented to the county by May 2023, Stevens said.

The county will then, with the blessing of the newly elected County Executive, seek funding to bring the center to life. Local, state and federal funding and grants all will be explored, Stevens says.

The services the proposed facilities provide will be offered regionally (not just for Frederick County producers), Stevens said.

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It was a grand festival for puddle stompers. [Image courtesy Phil Grout @ philgrout]

Cold temperatures, rain, and copious mud could not dampen the spirits of the 5,830 brave souls who attended opening day of the 49th annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival on Saturday, May 7, 2022. This was the first in-person festival after two years of virtual festivals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Slightly better weather (but no less muddy conditions) saw another 5,879 people who came on Mother’s Day,

MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

WRAPUP
 Together again, in person (in the rain!)

Sunday, May 8. The weather was definitely a factor, as this year more people came on Sunday than on Saturday. In other years, Sunday attendance is generally only about 65% of Saturday attendance.

Paid attendance for the two days was just over 11,700, down from 15,700 at the last in-person festival in 2019. These figures do not include people under the age of 18,

See Maryland Festival, page 2





Fair temperatures were comfortable for sheep, but shepherds in the show ring sported multiple layers. [Image courtesy Phil Grout @philgrout]

Maryland Festival,
continued from page 1

vendors, exhibitors, committee members, and volunteers, who all get free admission. Also, nearly 3,000 people who purchased tickets in advance chose not to attend. Whether this was due to the weather or concerns about COVID-19 is uncertain.

The bad weather led to the cancellation of the sheep shearing demonstrations on Saturday, while the sheep dogs and their handlers soldiered on and educated and entertained the crowd despite the rough conditions. Njörðr’s Wanderers, an evidenced-based living history group who

demonstrates a myriad of crafts from the Viking Age (including textile work, like weaving on a warp weighted loom), also opted not to come on Saturday, but were extremely well received by the public on Sunday. The group posted on Facebook that it was “one of the most satisfying events we’ve done” and shared “what was just as exciting was that the visitors knew their stuff (being a wool event, after all), and the questions and conversations were impressively informed.”

While most of the Festival was business as usual, some notable changes were made to the venues where events occurred. With construction of the new Main Exhibition Annex at the fairgrounds finally completed, a lot of the fiber-related events were able to be consolidated under one roof. These included the Skein & Garment Competition, Fiber Arts Demonstrations, and booths for Maryland Make It With Wool (MIWW) and the Chesapeake Fibershed. The building also played host to the MIWW Fashion Show and Junior Spinning Competition on Saturday and Sheep-to-Shawl Competition on Sunday. Entries in the Fine Arts Competition, Sheep Photo Competition, and Sheep Promotions Competition were also on display there throughout the weekend. The new building, which is brightly lit and climate controlled, was well received by all participants. The Fiber Arts Demonstrations, which had previously occupied the Rabbit Barn, and MIWW, who were in a tent in years past, were especially appreciative of their new indoor locations given the horrendous weather.

Other changes included relocating the Fleece Show & Sale to the building next door that formerly housed T-shirt sales and moving T-shirt

sales into the Bingo Hall. People found their way to both new locations, with 568 fleeces being sold (80% of those entered) and \$42,500 going back into the producers’ pockets. Sales of T-shirts and other 2022 festival gear were also brisk, with gross sales exceeding those from 2019. If you were not able to get to the festival, there is still some 2022 merchandise available in the showroom at Sheepman Supply as well as online at <https://www.sheepman.com/product-category/maryland-sheep-wool-festival-online/>.

Some long-time Sheep Show exhibitors who bring large flocks from far flung places opted not to come, citing rising transportation costs and the effects of the drought out west. However, this year saw an upswing in first-time exhibitors. While the number of sheep exhibited was down from past years, the number of exhibitors was actually higher than it had been in some time, indicating that more people came but brought a smaller number of animals to show.

The success of this year’s Festival was entirely due to the efforts of all of the committee members and volunteers who were working in less-than-ideal conditions. Between the two-year break, bad weather, and adapting to new locations for events, many committee members were heard to say that this was probably one of the most challenging festivals in which they had ever participated. This angst apparently occurred behind the scenes, for from the feedback on social media, it appears that the general public felt that it ran like a well-oiled machine!

—Kris Thorne



Drop spindle demo by Njörðr’s Wanderers. In the background is an ongoing demonstration of a warp weighted loom. [Image courtesy Phil Grout @philgrout]



To keep your ranch and the American wool industry thriving now and for generations to come, we need to get the most out of our wool. Whether it's managing for good health and more pounds of wool, shearing for better wool quality, or making your clip more desirable for buyers, the American Wool Assurance (AWA) program is here to help you.

Every day, we provide high-quality feed, protection and hands-on care for our sheep and now is our chance to be rewarded for this top-notch care. From proudly outfitting our U.S. military to supplying high-quality wool to prestigious fabric mills in Italy, American Wool can assure customers the world over that our wool is ethical and ideal for their life.

The American Wool Assurance program was developed by the producers, for producers. As a result of input from the U.S. sheep industry, the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and Colorado State University developed a program that enables American wool growers to showcase their high-level of sheep care and management practices.

This voluntary, science-based program spotlights how American sheep are some of the best managed in the world. To address consumer concerns of animal well-being and to deliver confidence in American wool products, we must give them the opportunity to appreciate how the wool was grown and all it has to offer.

Educating consumers. Consumers are increasingly interested in the story behind the product, and this is our chance to share our story. Where did it come from? How sustainable is it? Did the animals receive proper care? From food to fashion and anywhere in between, consumers are valuing the importance of animal welfare and traceability. And continuing up the supply chain, retail brands are staying competitive by demonstrating their responsibility by knowing about the product and certifying the goods they use. As a result, a growing number of apparel companies and consumers around the world are requiring verification of proper animal care (welfare) which meet international standards for the products they sell.

Marketing advantages. With AWA, we can demonstrate how we raise our sheep and can reap the rewards for sharing it. By voluntarily providing assurance to customers, wool growers have the opportunity to gain access into new markets, resulting in more interested buyers and, potentially, long-term contracts. Wool buyers and processors in the United States and across the world are asking for certified wool. AWA is a tool to help you be more competitive in the



marketplace and to negotiate a higher price. These benefits can assist your operation now and long into the future.

Certifying best practices and humane treatment. We work hard to keep our operations sustainable and thriving for generations to come. A large part of operation and financial sustainability is good management and record keeping. AWA is here to encourage good sheep management, record keeping, regular training, and owner involvement—all of which are important to keeping your operation thriving.

In addition, despite best efforts and expertise in agriculture, animal extremists actively work against agriculture. Good operating plans and records can help defend operations and demonstrate proper animal welfare.

The AWA standards focus on year-round quality care with regard to health and nutrition, effective facilities, low-stress transportation and handling, proper castration and tail docking, and safe and humane shearing.

With multiple levels to match every grower and buyer's needs, wool growers of any size operation can become involved and gain advantages from using an assurance program.

Labeling. Wool buyers can't miss AWA authenticated wool because it's proudly marked

Wool Assurance program: promotion through education, certification

This report on the program is from the American Sheep Industry Association.

ASI Wool Assurance Program in a nutshell

What is it?

A set of standards focusing on the welfare of the animals.

A way for producers to set themselves apart when it comes to marketing and selling their wool. With consumers new awareness, they are demanding to know how and where their products are produced. This starts on the farm or ranch. AWA is a tool to help you compete in marketplace by creating a positive public perception of your standards when raising your wool.

The program also offers traceability of the wool you produce as it makes its way through the cycle of processing.

What do you need to do? To become Level I Certified you sign up and take an online course and pass the exam. Level II and Level III require either evaluations or audits in addition to the Level I certification.

Currently there are about 20 evaluators able to come out and "Process Verify" your operation.

For more information and to enroll, go to <https://www.americanwoolassurance.org/>.

—Patty Sanville

with an AWA logo on every bale. Certificates and ranch information are shared with wool buyers and then verified on the AWA website. While growers can choose not to share any information beyond their AWA level status, they can also choose to enhance traceability and marketability by providing their name and general location.

Here are the accreditation levels:

Level I Educated: Growers learn about best practices in proper care and management related to wool production through an online course.

Level II Process Verified: After completing level I training and developing and implementing plans and records, Growers can show compliance with the AWA standards through a second-party evaluation. Evaluations are achieved with a trained evaluator (typically a Cooperative Extension agent or a veterinarian) at least every 2 years.

Level III Certified: Growers are able to prove proficiency in the AWA standards by accomplishing an on-site, 3rd-party audit. Audits take place when sheep are being handled and must occur at least once every 4 years, with 2nd-party evaluations continuing every 2 years.

Ranch Group Certified: Ranch Group Certification allows for efficient auditing and larger lots of wool to be sold with AWA certification. After completing level I courses, participants are able to demonstrate proficiency in the AWA standards by fulfilling evaluations every 2 years and a percentage (the square root) of participants achieving an audit at least every 4 years.

Why should I enroll in AWA? Growers can gain access into new markets resulting in a reputation for good animal care, easier selling and, potentially, premiums and long-term contracts. These benefits can assist growers now and long into the future. Additionally, accountability programs preserve the reputation of wool, the growers, and the retailers, encourages better communication between growers, shearers, wool buyers and customers, better record keeping required by programs can increase profitability and increase dialogue between growers and consumers helps to educate and keep agriculture thriving.

Is this program mandatory? No, this program is voluntary, but open to any wool grower in the U.S.

Is this program for large producers or small producers? Both. With various levels of certification, any wool grower can become involved, show their commitment to animal care, and benefit from the program. It is up to the

grower if they would like to advance levels—we recommend discussing opportunities with your warehouseman or wool buyer.

What are the costs? There are no fees to be a member of the program or to complete Level I. Growers are responsible for costs to complete evaluations and audits. Ranch Group Certification is also available to help decrease costs.

Which learning courses do I need to take? To become accredited in AWA Level I – Educated, you must take the AWA and Sheep Safety & Quality Assurance (SSQA) courses. SSQA provides a good foundation for all sheep care, while AWA focuses specifically on wool sheep care.

How difficult are the standards to meet? The standards are comprehensive and require proper wool sheep care. Most growers already provide a high-level of care and will meet many of the standards, so the program provides the opportunity to be transparent in your care practices.

How do I know what AWA level I should become certified in? Depending on your type, quality and quantity of wool, it will be more or less advantageous to move up to Levels II and III. To determine if it will be beneficial, please discuss the opportunities for market access with your warehouseman or wool buyer.

Visit the AWA website, AmericanWoolAssurance.org, to learn more about the program, how it might benefit you and how to become involved.

ASI podcast provides research, management updates

Perhaps lost in the first year of the pandemic was the launch of ASI's new monthly podcast, specific to sheep production and research related topics.

The ASI Research Update podcasts are typically announced mid-month in the *ASI Weekly* emails and on social media (Facebook and Instagram). You can access them on the ASI webpage at <https://www.sheepusa.org/research-podcast>, and directly at <https://soundcloud.com/user-637754734>. They are also available on iTunes and Google play.

Recent episodes have featured:

- Wool Research Update with Dr. Chris Posbergh (known to moorit breeders for his research on identification of genes associated with moorit coloring, which he presented at the 2018 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival)
- Copper 101 with Dr. Dan Morriral
- External Parasite Control with Dr. Cassandra Olds.



The image at right (below, center) is from a well-known study conducted about 50 years ago. For 3 years the researchers clipped rough fescue plants once per month to residual heights 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1.5 inches. They also compared these 3 defoliation heights with plants that had never been clipped.

As you can see from the photo, there is not too much practical difference in root mass between the plant that was never clipped and the plant clipped to a height of 5 inches. Likewise, it is easy to see the detrimental effects of clipping to a 1 ½ inch height.

But those are not the points you should take away from this. What you should pay close attention to is the difference in root mass between the plant clipped to 5 inches versus 3 inches. Therein lies the biggest practical difference in root mass; the

plant managed to a long-term grazing height of 5 inches has significantly more active roots for gathering water, scavenging nutrients, and supporting above-ground growth.

The scary part is that the difference between the two management treatments is the difference between moving livestock to another field, or giving them one more day or so. How often do you let them have “just one more bite” because you are afraid of wasting grass?

I will concede that grasses are pretty forgiving, and that this study represents a long-term result. I also haven’t mentioned the important role of rest following grazing...a long rest period can help plants recover from severe defoliation. I’m convinced though, that the process of root pruning from mismanagement happens quickly and can easily snowball, particularly when a farm is overstocked.

The photos at below right are from a tall fescue bunch that I dug up and split into two plants. Initially, both plants had roots about 8” deep. I potted the plants and clipped one plant to a 4-inch height and the other to a 1-inch height. I repeated this one more time after a little regrowth and then allowed both plant to recover for about a month. Then I washed their roots and placed them in glass containers (just for display purposes). You can clearly see that a big reduction in root depth and mass took place fairly quickly.

I’m sure you are already thinking of all the impacts short- or long-term grazing height might have on everything from yield to



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

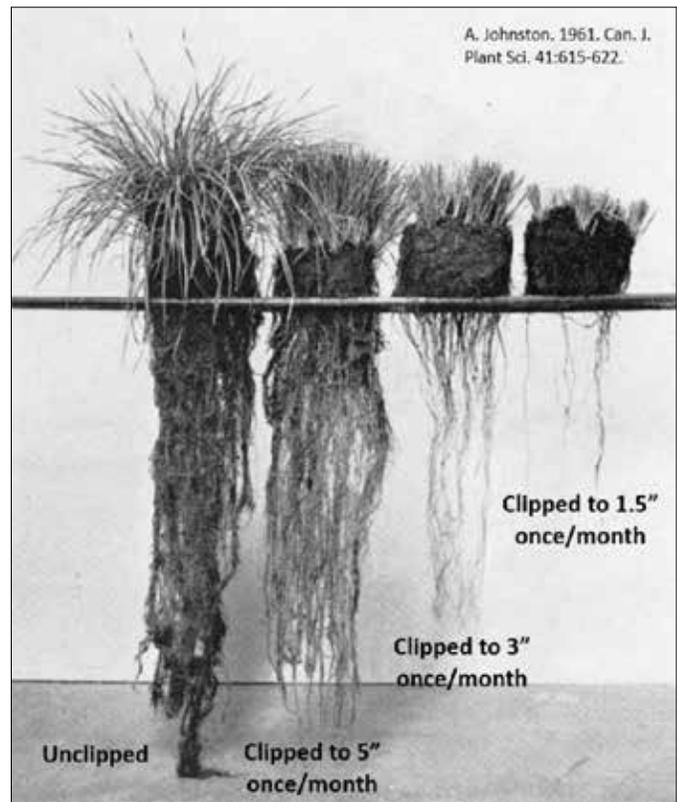
drought tolerance to stand longevity. I’ll offer one more thought to those of you who are worried about “wasting” grass by moving livestock too soon.

Forage availability (forage intake) is the number one driver of animal performance – even more so than the nutritional quality of the forage. The quantity and quality of forage in a pasture goes down with each day animals remain on it and there is research to show that animal performance starts dropping as early as three days in.

Obviously we do not live in an ideal world, and our grazing management is going to be less than textbook at times. I think it is an important concept though, to remember the cost of “just one more bite.”

Matt Booher

is a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent based in Augusta County. This article is reprinted from the spring issue of The Fenceline.



Initial plants



Roots after clipping at 1” and 4”



Working with your processor & marketing those cuts

The video of the presentation (as well as a followup panel discussion) is available at <https://www.foragecouncil.com/resources>.

Since the pandemic lowered the boom in 2020, direct marketing meat producers depending on availability of custom processing capacity have faced a surge in demand for local meat frustratingly coinciding with a crunch in their ability to meet that demand, which still reverberates more than two and a half years later.

In a presentation at the January 2022 Maryland-Delaware Virtual Forage Conference, one speaker focused on how direct marketers of meat can make the most of the new environment, as they consider production and marketing goals.

Brian Moyer, Pennsylvania State University Extension agent whose focus is on business and community vitality, provided tips to consider in planning livestock processing. He discussed strategies for gaining control to maintain a steady supply of products, and invited producers to enlarge their knowledge of how to target and retain customers for those products.

Moyer, long been involved in direct farm marketing, currently serves on the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council. He managed a farmers market for 10 years, and is the founder/director of Pennsylvania Farm Markets, which provides education and resources for farmers markets and retail farm markets.

Many if not most farmers have multiple distinct business operations going on, Moyer said. For sheep producers, these are: production of lambs, feeding and finishing, processing, and marketing the product. Producers should consider them individually as they evaluate their operations for profitability.

Know your production costs. What is the cost of producing a lamb for market (e.g., feed, hay, supplies, vet)? What is your break-even point, and what profit do you hope for? With these numbers in hand, producers can work through the math to determine the per pound price for their marketing goals. As an example, we'll use a 100-lb lamb dresses out to a hanging carcass weight carcass weight of 50%, and the cost to get it 100 pounds is \$2.85/lb.

1. Cost of raising the 110-lb lamb = \$2.85 per pound

2. \$2.85 divided by 50% (hanging weight) = \$5.70/lb

3. \$5.70 plus \$1.55 (per pound processing fee) = \$7.25/lb

4. \$7.25 divided by 75% to get the "cut-out" cost = \$9.67/lb

5. Add on the 25% profit per pound you seek for your cuts: \$9.67 divided by 75% = \$12.89/lb

Working with your butcher. The pandemic accelerated the demand for locally grown products, especially meat, and the need for custom processing went far beyond what processors—also contending with staffing problems exacerbated by COVID-19—could provide.

Those strains have continued even as we slowly emerge from the pandemic with demand for local meat strong. Making the most of your relationship with a butcher, Moyer said, begins with understanding that you each have the same end goal—producing a high-quality product. By taking advantage of their knowledge of meat, and understanding how their business works, producers can build a relationship that is satisfying for each.

- What times of the year are slower for the butcher? Can you adjust your production schedule to fit those windows?
- If the butcher is swamped at your hoped-for dates, is there another facility that can cut and



~50%

The average dressing percentage for sheep is about 50%.

Example:

Live weight = 127 lbs.
Actual DP = 52%
Carcass wt. = 66 lbs.

Lamb

Most lamb cuts are bone-in. Expect no more than 70-75% of carcass weight back as meat.

Example:

Carcass wt. = 66 lbs.
Lamb cuts = 50 lbs.

wrap, so that you can ask the butcher just for slaughter services?

- Ask the butcher about your lamb carcasses, to gain information on how you might improve yield with feeding or genetic changes. The butcher's assessment of the carcass can provide insight. For example, is the fat cover thin, ideal, or over-fat? For a particular lamb carcass, what is an ideal hanging time?

- Does he/she have a specialty product—something they love to make? (e.g., specialty sausages? Special cuts?) Perhaps together you can develop a special product with your lamb.

Knowing the customer. Who your customers are and why they buy will help you develop effective strategies for marketing your lamb. Moyer discussed some focus group research by the Hartman Group on consumer purchasing behavior especially having to do with sustainability. It segmented buyers into three types, based on price sensitivity, aspiration to “eat better,” and passion and interest in all things food:

- **Core** customers make up 13% of this group. They tend to be most intensely involved, early adopters, highly food literate, less price sensitive.

- **Mid-level** (60%) are mainstream consumers, actively seek new food experiences and articulate “local, seasonal, and global.” They aspire to eat better.

- **Periphery** (27%) consumers are the least engaged in the world of food. They seek pleasure and sustenance more than knowledge (“I know what I like and I like what I know.”)

The research identified five reasons why these consumers seek out direct-marketed local food:

- Transparency (they can ask about how the animal was raised)

- Local (they appreciate food grown locally)

- Authenticity (they meet the producer and know where the farm is—want to know if what you offer is what you say it is)

- Personal benefit (they believe that local fresh food is healthier)

- Experience (the process of shopping locally is rewarding, vs. visiting a grocery store).

Producers can use these insights to design a marketing plan, signage at farmers markets, and website/social media content.

Moyer said the dominant demographic of these kinds of customers are aged 30-49, value organic food, and are mostly educated suburban/urban women buying for the household (although

Moyer said that this is shifting toward a 50/50 split of women/men). They often have young children and want to ensure they have a healthy diet. This is different from farmers market customers, who tend to be over age 50. So internet-based marketing is likely to reach younger parents more effectively.

Your marketing effort should tell your farm's story. Moyer displayed a website of a beef producer with a banner of a verdant hayfield landscape with round bales, and an image of a plate of elegantly prepared sliced beef tenderloin. There weren't pictures of cattle, description of the breed raised (although he said core customers may care about this). “Here's where it's raised; here's the eating experience you'll have.”

“You are not selling meat!” Moyer said. “You are meeting a need, marketing your farm's story—and the farmer in the next booth is not your competition. No two farms are the same.”

Retaining customers is the next task of your marketing program. “People

move, they move on, they try something different,” Moyer said—especially CSA customers. The task of retaining your buyers is one of continuing education. Communicate throughout the year with them: a schedule of what to expect, tips on cooking and storing what you sell. Share with them weather events, harvest schedules—make them feel a part of the farm.

Talking to your customers about how they prepare your lamb can help you ensure they have a good cooking experience—and might even supply you with new ideas for marketing cuts. A farmers market can be a testing ground for potential new products, and be an instant focus group for you, he said.

Moyer described how he was selling lamb shanks at a lower price at the farmers market, believing they were less marketable as a cut, but when customers told him they were prized for osso bucco (a stew made with veal or lamb), he realized he could market them as such, with a recipe—at a higher price.

◀ Marketing

Maryland-Delaware Forage Council

The Maryland-Delaware Forage Council was organized in 1983 to serve as a forum for forages and grasslands in both states and to serve as the integrator and coordinator of the numerous businesses, organizations, and service agencies associated with the forage industry. It is an affiliate of the American Forage & Grassland Council. Its objectives are:

- To promote the profitable production, marketing, and use of forage as a prime feed resource for efficient livestock production.

- To provide a forum for farmers, agribusiness representatives, and public agency personnel to consider and make recommendations on general issues that affect the forage industry.

- To encourage industries and organizations serving agriculture to provide the best available products and information for optimum production, evaluation, marketing, and use of forage.

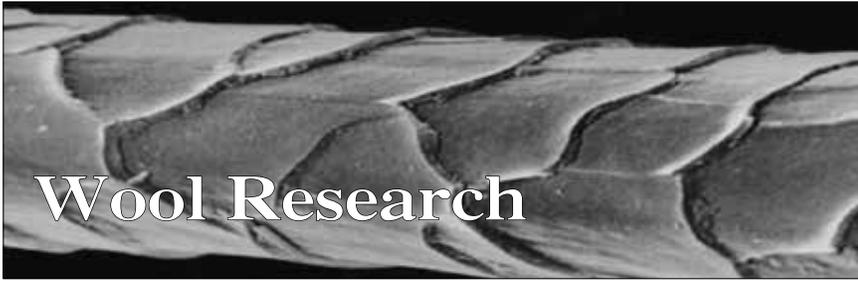
- To identify needs and encourage expanded and intensified research and education related to forage production, evaluation, marketing, and use.

- To promote the use of forage legumes in crop rotations as a source of nitrogen for succeeding crops.

- To promote the agricultural and environmental benefits and value of forage crops, grazing lands, and other grasslands for their roles in conserving soil and water and abating pollution.

- To provide leadership in forage and grassland activities in Maryland and Delaware.

- To cooperate with other organizations promoting modern technologies of forage and grassland agriculture and encourage joint programs when desirable for most effective results.



More than microns: What fiber analysis may tell us



Dr. Christian Posbergh

In the June ASI Sheep Podcast, Montana State University assistant professor Dr. Christian Posbergh spoke to host Jake Thorne (Sheep & Goat Program Specialist at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension) about new wool research underway at the Montana university. Here are a few topics they discussed.

Microbiome of wool. The microbial biome, a community of microorganisms (such as bacteria, fungi, and viruses) that inhabit a particular environment, is a focus of research in areas as diverse as glaciers, arthritis, piglet nursing behavior, and soil health.

Prior research has shown differences in the microbiome pegged to wool on different parts of the ovine body and by breed. Posbergh's current work includes collecting wool samples from lambs at different stages of growth and comparing the DNA of the microbial populations.

The research will attempt to address whether differences in color and fiber diameter are associated with differences in the wool microbiome, and whether particular organisms are associated with the canary stain that degrades wool quality. The research also could identify differences in the wool microbiome associated the presence of external parasites.

A valuable outcome of such research could include knowledge of whether a particular microbiome could be manipulated to improve wool quality and animal health.

You can listen to the hour-long podcast here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-637754734/asi-research-update-wool-research-update-with-dr-chris-posbergh>

Analyzing wool to study stress and pregnancy. Hormones are also present in fleece, and analyzing levels of the “stress hormone” cortisol in fleece samples could become a noninvasive method of assessing sheep for chronic stress, which can make them more prone to illness.

Progesterone also is present in wool fiber, Posbergh explained, and its presence in fiber can confirm pregnancy in ewes. If detectable levels are present in wool early in pregnancy, it could become a more efficient way to assess pregnancy status in the flock—and even predict litter size.

Quantifying color. In the commercial trade, “bright” white wool is of the highest value. But while fiber diameter and staple length are mechanically quantifiable, visual assessment of fiber color is subjective. Another avenue of research underway at MSU is using a colorimeter (which consists of using light and a prism to measure wavelengths reflecting off of the fiber) to allow precise measurement of this wool characteristic.

In natural colored sheep, the ability to precisely measure differences—and then to identify the genetic markers for desired colors—would be a leap forward for breeders, allowing them to have more certainty in breeding decisions to achieve coloration preferences.

(Researchers in South America and Europe published in 2021 research results of colorimetry analysis of alpaca coat color and its relationship with fiber traits in alpacas, with the aim of promoting natural colored fiber in lieu of dyes in the textile industry.)

Field testing vs. lab testing. MSU's Wool Laboratory conducts wool testing on site at ranches as well as in the lab, and results differ with different temperatures and humidity levels. New research aims to correlate differing measurements to those environmental variations, to ensure standardized results.

More research on wool

Woolmark's wool research webpages provide information on a range of topics highlighting the value of wool and wool-growing:

- Science confirms wool's fire resistance
- Closed-loop wool recycling reduces environmental impact
- Natural capital accounting for wool-growing
- Global wardrobe study
- How superfine Merino wool can treat eczema
- Consumers hold the power to influence clothing's sustainability
- Wool promotes a better night's sleep
- Biodiversity and wool growing
- Soil health and wool-growing
- Wool is not an allergen
- Wool carpets purify the air
- Why cradle-to-cradle needs to be included in fashion's sustainability raising tools
- Wool reduces body odor
- Water systems and wool-growing
- Drought and wool-growing

Go to <https://www.woolmark.com/industry/research/> to access the research.

The 2022 Maryland Make It with Wool Competition will be held Saturday, October 15, at the Wards Chapel United Methodist Church in Randallstown (Baltimore County).

MIWW competition dates set Maryland residents from age 6 thru adult who enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting spinning and weaving with wool fabrics

and yarns are encouraged to participate in this activity, coordinated by a committee of the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association.

Participants must select, construct and model a garment(s) made from a minimum of 60% wool fiber. Judging criteria include fit and overall appearance; coordination of fabric/yarn with garment style and design; construction quality; creativity and wool promotion.

The top junior and senior participants will represent Maryland at the National Competition in Fort Worth, Texas during the ASI meeting in January 2023. The preteen winner will receive a sewing machine; the garment and DVD of the winning adult will be sent to National Adult Judging. Young sewers, ages 6 and 7 discuss their projects and receive comments from the judges, but are not placed. All participants receive wool fabric and a gift bag of sewing notions.

Entry deadline is September 15. No late entries will be accepted.

For more information and entry form, email mdmiww@aol.com.



Starting this year, the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association will be awarding the youth exhibitors with the best bred-and-owned sheep at Maryland county fairs. This is a change from past MSBA practice, which has been to recognize with trophies youth exhibitors (4-H and FFA)

Youth fair awards for bred & owned sheep for champion ewe and champion ram at the fairs. The winner will receive a one-year membership in the MSBA, along with a handy flat-back bucket.

Currently, not all Maryland counties have a bred-and-owned class at their shows—we encourage all Maryland counties to add the such a class to their schedules in future years.

—Nancy Starkey



The 2022 Maryland Sheep & Wool Ambassador is 17-year-old Annabelle Miller from Keymar. She has been showing sheep for most of her life, beginning with Shropshires from her parents' flock, then acquired Romneys when she was 9. She has shown her sheep at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, the Maryland State Fair, the Northeast Youth Sheep Show, and the All-American Junior Show.

She is active in the Montgomery County 4-H Sheep and Swine Club, where she has served as club secretary and president. She is a member of the Montgomery County 4-H Livestock Judging team, and is a member of the Maryland State Junior Fair Board. This year she started raising meat turkeys and Bantam chickens as a 4-H project.

Annabelle is currently a senior at Walkersville High School. She plays the tuba and bass trombone in her school's bands. After high school she plans to study civil engineering in college. In her spare time, she enjoys painting and photography.

The Ambassador alternate is 16-year-old Lydia Chamelin, of Westminster. She is a member of the Sheep Shearing Committee for the MD Sheep and Wool Festival. She is a member of Carroll County 4-H and the Manchester Baptist Youth Group. She works on her family's sheep farm.

Duties of the ambassador (or the alternate) include:

- attending and help with sheep shows at the county fairs and the Maryland State Fair.
- assisting with the Maryland State Fair's Lead Class.
- reporting on their activities at the MSBA annual banquet in October.
- promoting lamb and wool in a variety of other ways.

2022 MSW Ambassador Miller and Alternate Chamelin named

Congratulations to 2022 Maryland Sheep & Wool Ambassador Annabelle Miller (left), and Alternate Ambassador Lydia Chamelin (right).



2022 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival results

Sheep Shows

Black Border Leicester

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Sarah Jakeman, Canajoharie, NY

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Josie Baird, Canfield, OH

Best Fleece: Yearling Ewe – Lydia Smith, Greenwood, DE (MSBA Member)

Premier Exhibitor: Lydia Smith, Greenwood, DE (MSBA Member)

Black Lincoln

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Ava Jo Hayes, Allentown, NJ

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Darlene Leary, Oakham, MA

Best Fleece: Yearling Ewe – Diane Klingelhofer, Marriottsville, MD

Premier Exhibitor: Darlene Leary, Oakham, MA

Black Romney

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Penny Kemp, Ridgefield, CT

Champion Ewe: Jr. Ewe Lamb – Charlene Carlisle, Moorestown, NJ

Best Fleece: Sr. Ram Lamb – Penny Swearingen, Jonesville, MI (MSBA Member)

Premier Exhibitor: Charlene Carlisle, Moorestown, NJ

Border Leicester

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Kevin Hopkins, Canajoharie, NY

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Heidi Barkley, Buffalo Hills, PA

Best Fleece: Jr. Ewe Lamb – Heidi Barkley, Buffalo Hills, PA

Premier Exhibitor: Heidi Barkley, Buffalo Hills, PA

Corriedale

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Best Fleece: Yearling Ram – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Premier Exhibitor: Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Jacob

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Royal Unzicker, Sellersville PA (MSBA Member)

Champion Ewe: Jr. Ewe Lamb – Roy Deppa, Brookeville, MD

Best Fleece: Jr. Ewe Lamb – Roy Deppa, Brookeville, MD

Premier Exhibitor: Roy Deppa, Brookeville, MD

Karakul

Champion Ram: Jr. Ram Lamb – Letty Klein, Kalamazoo, MI (MSBA Member)

Best Fleece: Jr. Ram Lamb – Letty Klein, Kalamazoo, MI (MSBA Member)

Premier Exhibitor: Letty Klein, Kalamazoo, MI (MSBA Member)

Lincoln

Champion Ram: Jr. Ram Lamb – West Winds Farm, Union Bridge, MD

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Diane Klingelhofer, Marriottsville, MD

Best Fleece: Yearling Ewe – Barbara Mullen, Thurmont, MD (MSBA Member)

Premier Exhibitor: Deborah Vanderwende, Greenwood, DE

Natural Colored Fine

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Martha Polkey, Leesburg, VA (MSBA Member)

Champion Ewe: Sr. Ewe Lamb – Martha Polkey, Leesburg, VA (MSBA Member)

Best Fleece: Sr. Ram Lamb – Martha Polkey, Leesburg, VA (MSBA Member)

Premier Exhibitor: Martha Polkey, Leesburg, VA (MSBA Member)

Natural Colored Long

Champion Ram: Jr. Ram Lamb – West Winds Farm, Union Bridge, MD

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Michele Potts, Chandlersville, OH

Best Fleece: Yearling Ewe – Michele Potts, Chandlersville, OH

Premier Exhibitor: Michele Potts, Chandlersville, OH

Natural Colored Medium

Champion Ram: Jr. Ram Lamb – Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Best Fleece: Yearling Ewe – Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Premier Exhibitor: Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Premier Natural Colored Exhibitor: Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Romney

Champion Ram: Jr. Ram Lamb - Allison Seyfert, Port Deposit, MD (MSBA Member)

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Emma Rogers, Danielson, CT

Best Fleece: Yearling Ewe – Emma Rogers, Danielson, CT

Premier Exhibitor: Charlene Carlisle, Moorestown, NJ



2022 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival results

White Wool Fine

Champion Ram: Sr. Ram Lamb – Martha Polkey, Leesburg, VA (MSBA Member)

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Lincoln Reck, Lovettsville, VA

Best Fleece: Sr. Ram Lamb – Martha Polkey, Leesburg, VA (MSBA Member)

Premier Exhibitor: Kim Harrison, Moseley, VA (MSBA Member)

White Wool Long

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – David Berryhill, Pine Island, MN

Champion Ewe: Yearling Ewe – Heather Coulis, Brunswick, OH

Best Fleece: Yearling Ram – David Berryhill, Pine Island, MN

Premier Exhibitor: Cristine Crossman, Whitehall, NY

Premier White Wool Exhibitor: Christine Crossman, Whitehall, NY

White Wool Medium

Champion Ram: Yearling Ram – Katie Miller, Newville, PA

Champion Ewe: Jr. Ewe Lamb – Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Best Fleece: Jr. Ewe Lamb – Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Premier Exhibitor: Annette Lovell, Linden, PA

Supreme Champion Ram

Black Border Leicester Yearling Ram – Sarah Jakeman, Canajoharie, NY

Supreme Champion Ewe

Border Leicester Yearling Ewe – Heidi Barkley, Buffalo Hills, PA

Supreme Fleece

Corriedale Yearling Ram – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Judith MacKenzie judges as helpers take notes on Friday May 6. [Image courtesy Phil Grout @philgrout]



Shepherd Award

Lydia Smith, Greenwood, DE (MSBA Member)

Fleece Show

Division I – Natural Colored Fleeces

Natural Colored Fine Wool: 1st Place – Martha Polkey, Leesburg, VA (MSBA Member)

Natural Colored Medium Wool: 1st Place – Peggy Howell, Westminster, MD (MSBA Member)

Natural Colored Long Wool: 1st Place – Sarah Campbell, West River, MD (MSBA Member)

Natural Colored Double Coated – Laura Johnstone Wilson, Centreville, MD

Division II – White Fleeces

White Fine Wool: 1st Place – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

White Medium Wool: 1st Place – Percy Langstaff, Dickerson, MD (MSBA Member)

Down-Type Medium Wool – Maris Miles, Dickerson, MD

White Long Wool: 1st Place – Pamela Helton, Frederick, MD (MSBA Member)

White Double Coated – Mary Henze, Oakton, VA (MSBA Member)

Division III – Breed Class Fleeces

Blue-Faced Leicester: 1st Place – Margie Smith, New Oxford, PA (MSBA Member)

Border Leicester: 1st Place – Marcia Haggie, Millington, MD (MSBA Member)

Coopworth: 1st Place – Ken & Deb Koons, Steeles Tavern, VA

Corriedale: 1st Place – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Cotswold: 1st Place – Robin Nistock, Prattsburgh, NY (MSBA Member)

Finnsheep: 1st Place – Caraleigh Wilson, Bangall, NY (MSBA Member)

Gotland: 1st Place – Chris Dehne, Manchester, MD (MSBA Member)

Karakul: 1st Place – Cynthia Monk, Lovettsville, VA

Leicester Longwool: 1st Place – Ainsley West, Milton, DE (MSBA Member)

Lincoln: 1st Place – Trennen Latham, Thurmont, MD (MSBA Member)

Merino: 1st Place – Amy Schroeder, McComb, OH (MSBA Member)

Romeldale: 1st Place – Marie Minnich, Danville, PA (MSBA Member)

Romney: 1st Place – Chris Posbergh, Branchburg, NJ (MSBA Member)

Shetland: 1st Place – Laura Johnstone Wilson, Centreville, MD

Fleece Show Champions and Special Awards

Champion Fleece, Division I (Natural Colored Fleeces) – Peggy Howell, Westminster, MD (MSBA Member)

Champion Fleece, Division II (White Fleeces) – Percy Langstaff, Dickerson, MD (MSBA Member)

2022 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival results

Champion Fleece, Division III (Breed Class Fleeces) – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Grand Champion Fleece – Geof Ruppert, Fairfield, PA (MSBA Member)

Reserve Grand Champion Fleece – Peggy Howell, Westminster, MD (MSBA Member)

Pat Brown Memorial Award (Best Maryland Fleece) – Percy Langstaff, Dickerson, MD (MSBA Member)

Tyson Creamer Memorial Award (Best 4-H Fleece) – Abigail Willis (MSBA Member)

Best Uncoated Fleece – Pamela Helton, Frederick, MD (MSBA Member)

Maryland Shepherds Cup – Pamela Helton, Frederick, MD (MSBA Member)

Blue Faced Leicester Union Award for Highest Placing BFL Fleece – Margie Smith, New Oxford, PA (MSBA Member)

American Border Leicester Association Awards:

Champion Border Leicester Fleece – Taylor Howman & Lynessa Casto, Wooster, OH (MSBA Member)

Best White Border Leicester Fleece – Taylor Howman & Lynessa Casto, Wooster, OH (MSBA Member)

Best Natural Colored Border Leicester Fleece – Abigail Zimmerman, Adamstown, MD (MSBA Member)

Club Lamb Jackpot

Lightweight

1st – Katie Miller, Newville, PA

2nd – Kortney Spicer, Woodbine, MD (MSBA Member)

3rd – Evan DiSciullo, Elkton, MD

4th – Evan DiSciullo, Elkton, MD

Medium weight

1st – Milleanne Mullinix, Union Bridge, MD

2nd – Kortney Spicer, Woodbine, MD (MSBA Member)

3rd – Katie Miller, Newville, PA

Heavyweight

1st – Jackson Kelly, Berryville, VA

2nd – Milleanne Mullinix, MD

3rd – Jackson Kelly, Berryville, VA

Creative Shearing Competition

Champion – Laura Dutton, Frederick, MD (MSBA Member)

2nd Place – Grace Ellis, Hagerstown, MD

Fine Arts Competition

Best of Show – Darcy Maier, Gettysburg, PA

Reserve Best of Show – Melanie Haycock, Towson, MD

Best Maryland Resident Entry – Melanie Haycock, Towson, MD

Best Maryland Resident Junior Entry – Annabelle Miller, Keymar, MD (MSBA Member)

Junior Sheep & Goat Skillathon

1st Place Junior – Jackson Null

1st Place Intermediate – Corrinne Cooley

1st Place Senior – Marie-Claire des Rosiers

Lead Line Competition

Junior (5 to 8 years old)

1st Place – Josie Baird, Canfield, OH

2nd Place – Caroline Clark, Thurmont, MD (MSBA Member)

3rd Place – Daisy Timney

Intermediate (9 to 12 years old)

1st Place – Eden Reck

Senior (13 to 18 years old)

1st Place – Preston Clark, Thurmont, MD (MSBA Member)

2nd Place – Savannah Timney

Maryland Sheep & Wool Ambassador Competition

Ambassador – Annabelle Miller, Keymar, MD (MSBA Member)

Alternate Ambassador – Lydia Chamelin, Westminster, MD (MSBA Member)

Sheep Photo Competition

Best of Show – Susan Greenfield, Hanover PA

Reserve Best of Show – Cheryl Dunlap, Lore City, OH (MSBA Member)

Best Maryland Resident Entry – Anne Halsey, Dickerson, MD (MSBA Member)

Best Maryland Resident Junior Entry – Robbie Nichols, Fairplay, MD

Sheep Promotion Competition

Breed Promotion

Mini Division (7 years old and under)

1st Place – Nathan Krome, Littlestown, PA

Junior Division (8 to 10 years old)

1st Place – Adeline Skidmore, Aberdeen, MD (MSBA Member)

2nd Place – John McKeon, Dickerson, MD

Intermediate Division (11 to 13 years old)

1st Place – Robbie Nichols, Fairplay, MD

2nd Place – Theodore Prickman, Bethesda, MD

Meat Promotion

Junior Division: (8 to 10 years old)

1st Place – John McKeon, Dickerson, MD

Intermediate Division (11 to 13 years old)

1st Place – Emma Hutchinson, Ridgely, MD

2022 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival results

Wool Promotion

Mini Division (7 years old and under)

1st Place – Owen Wright, Littlestown, PA

Sheep-to-Shawl Competition

1st place – Fidget Spinners, Lancaster, PA

2nd place – Team Wabi Sabi, Lancaster, PA

3rd place – Spin City, New York, NY

Jane Hyland Memorial Award for Best Spinning Team - Team Wabi Sabi, Lancaster, PA

Skein & Garment Competition

Best in Show – Jeanne Tierney, Hilliard, OH

Flock Award – Kimberly Radcliffe, Troy, VA

Best Woven Article – Steven Martinez, Castle Rock, CO

Best Junior Spinner – Astrid Tauber, Pflugerville, TX

Best Novice Weaver – No Entry

Best Handspun Skein – Nora Eason, Chagrin Falls, OH

Best Handspun Article – Ann Mulla, Potomac, MD

Best Basket of Yarn – Emily Parkerson, Alexandria, VA

Best Novelty Yarn – Erin Hyde, Lithia, FL

Best Novice Spinner – Xan Sayers, Silver Spring, MD

Best Junior Fiber Artist – Molly Clark, Silver Spring, MD

Best Spindle-Spun Yarn – Kim Parkinson, Ontario, Canada

Best Spindle-Spun Yarn by a Junior – Kai Solon, Cranford, NJ

Best Knitted Article Using Gradient/Ombre Commercial Yarn – Malena Barzilai, Annandale, VA

Best Crocheted Article Using Gradient/Ombre Commercial Yarn – Jeanne Tierney, Hilliard, OH

Best Woven Article Using Gradient/Ombre Commercial Yarn – Sarah Soisson, Hyattsville, MD

Best Primitive Style Hooked Rug – Mila Vascones-Gatski, Kensington, MD

Best Traditional Style Hooked Rug – Kathleen Lopez, Damascus, MD

Best Natural Colored Skein – Kimberly Radcliffe, Troy, VA

Best Natural Colored Article – Joanna Crosby, Baltimore, MD

Best Teeswater Skein – Emily Parkerson, Alexandria, VA

Best Teeswater Article – Erin Hyde, Lithia, FL

Best Leicester Longwool Singles Yarn – Erin Lowery, Midlothian, VA

Best Leicester Longwool 2-Ply Yarn – Janet Lee, Rockville, MD

Best Overall Leicester Longwool Knitted Article – No Entry

Best Border Leicester Skein – Kimberly Radcliffe, Troy, VA

Best Border Leicester Article – Charlotte Dutton, Frederick, MD (MSBA Member)

Best Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Skein – Nancy Curtiss, Aurora, OH

Best Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Article – Mary Henze, Oakton, VA (MSBA Member)



Sunday crowds enjoyed drier conditions. [Image courtesy Phil Grout @philgrout]

Best Woven Constructed Article – Heidi Brown, Laurel, MD

Best Innovative Design – Marina Reinford, Mechanicsburg, PA

Freddie Award – Erin Hyde, Lithia, FL

Mamie Francis Blanket Competition, Grand Prize – Nani Jackson, Rockville, MD

Mamie Francis Blanket Competition, Best Blanket Made of MD Wool – No Entry

Special MSBA-Sponsored Awards

Best of Maryland Wool, Skein

Producer – Bob & Jean Galey, Catocin Creek Farm, Jefferson, MD

Entrant – Kim Parkinson, Ontario, Canada

Best of Maryland Wool, Article

Producer – Elizabeth Royal, Frederick, MD

Entrant – Ann Mulla, Potomac, MD



In Remembrance

Image courtesy Sue Sinton Smith

Jean Beaudry, a former member of the Seminar Committee, passed away in her sleep in mid-June after a long illness. Jean served on the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival Seminar Committee for many years and worked hard on the registration for workshops—in those days being done manually—checking to see that no person would take more than one of the full classes. She also was an accomplished weaver, spinning and dyeing the wool. She was an avid gardener and an active member of the American Rhododendron Society for many years, receiving with her husband Norman the Silver Medal Award for lifetime achievement. Jean did not want a funeral but her family hopes to have a celebration of her life later this summer.



Barbara with her daughters Karren Sowell, left, and Sharron Pilson, right, in 2015, accepting presentation of the Frederick County Sheep Breeders Association Distinguished Service Award. [Image courtesy FCSBA website]

Barbara Mullen passed away in late April. In recent years, she was known for organizing the Maryland Lamb & Wool Queen Contest at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, but her involvement with the Festival goes back much further. Barbara and her late husband Sam joined the Festival Committee in 1986. Barbara started as the show recorder for the Sheep Shows, and lent a helping hand on various committees, such as bulk mailing, food, fashion show, publicity and public relations. Over the years, Barbara served as chair of the Sheep Photo Contest and Lamb Carcass Contest



as well as the Lamb & Wool Queen contest, a position she held until just recently.

Greg Deakin of *The Banner Sheep Magazine*

passed away peacefully but unexpectedly June 12 in his hometown of Cuba, IL. In recent years, Greg managed the Festival's Saturday night Sheep Sale through his business Banner Sale Management. He also participated as an exhibitor in the both the Sheep Show and Fleece Show as well as being a long-time festival supporter through advertising and sponsorship. Memorials can be made to: The Greg Deakin Memorial Scholarship, *The Banner*, P.O. Box 500, Cuba, IL 61427; Cass-Putman Rescue, 516 E. Jefferson St, Cuba, IL 61427; or the sheep show of your choosing.



Maryland Sheep News is published three 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 January 1 Summer May 12
Fall September 12

Send copy to :

Martha Polkey, Editor
sheep@budiansky.com

Send payment to:

Treasurer, MSBA
1126 Slingluff Lane
New Windsor, MD 21776

Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, Inc. Officers & Directors

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| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
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Ex Officio

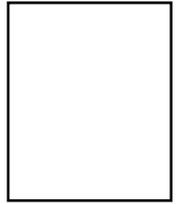
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|---|-------------------|---|--------------|---------------------------------|
| American Sheep Industry Association Representative | Patricia Sanville | 4637 Cap Stine Road Frederick, MD 21703 | 240-357-1437 | patriciasanville@gmail.com |
| Membership | Kris Thorne | 1130 Martin Drive Westminster, MD 21157 | 410-598-2459 | msbmembershipchair@gmail.com |
| Sheep & Wool Festival | Gwen Handler | 935 Bloom Road Westminster, MD 21157 | 410-596-6096 | gwenhandler@gmail.com |
| Make It With Wool | Judy Williamson | 6924 Girl Scout Road Boonsboro, MD 21713 | 301-432-0281 | judy10503@aol.com |
| Maryland Shearing School | Aaron Geiman | 429 Hook Road Westminster, MD 21157 | 443-340-2322 | mdsheepshearingschool@gmail.com |

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| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------|------------------------------|
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| | Nancy Cox Starkey | 12895 Colonial Drive Mt. Airy, MD 21771 | 301-253-4732 | ncstarkey@aol.com |
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| 2023 Directors | Steve Breeding | 4602 Stein Highway Seaford DE 19973 | 302-381-6129 | spbreeding@gmail.com |
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| | Polly Matzinger | 4810 Elmer Derr Road Frederick, MD 21703 | 240-444-2047 | amblingbrookfarm@gmail.com |
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| | Penny Sica | 550 Middle Creek Road Fairfield, PA 17320 | 717-408-5745 | pennysica@gmail.com |
| | Kate Warner | 5241 South Mill Street Lineboro, MD 21102 | 443-508-1154 | akwarner81@gmail.com |
| Maryland Sheep News Editor | Martha Polkey | 14605 Chapel Lane Leesburg, VA 20176 | 703-727-5604 | mp@budiansky.com |
| Website Coordinator | Kris Thorne | 1130 Martin Drive Westminster, MD 21157 | 410-598-2459 | msbmembershipchair@gmail.com |



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marylandsheepbreeders.org

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival:
sheepandwool.org

like us!



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), Sheep Shearing School, various youth activities, and a variety of educational functions.

You can join and pay online at <http://marylandsheepbreeders.org>, and fill out your member profile page. If you prefer to register by mail, fill out the form at left and mail with your \$25 check.

The Maryland Sheep Breeders Association Board of Directors meets every other month. Meetings are open to members. For minutes of meetings, contact the MSBA Secretary (see p. 15). 2022 meeting dates: Feb. 7, April 4, June 6, Sept. 12, Oct. 21, Dec. 5.

Here are sponsored events and activities for 2022

- January 29-30: Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival Winterfest
- February 18-19: Beginning Shearing School
- May 7-8: Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
- October 13: Annual Meeting & Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

Membership application

MARYLAND SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

As a member you will:

- Join an active and friendly community of shepherds and others
- Support the core activities of the MSBA.
- Receive the *Maryland Sheep News*, MSBA's informative newsletter, 3 times a year.
- Receive regular publications from the American Sheep Industry Association.
- Receive priority consideration for enrollment in the Maryland Shearing School (applicable only if you own sheep), and your family members will be given priority consideration for the annual MSBA scholarship.
- Receive free admission to the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival and be mailed a free copy of the catalog.
- Pay a reduced commission on all fleeces sold at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival Fleece Show & Sale.
- Be able to promote your farm or business through a free profile page on the MSBA website.

Annual membership/subscription fee: \$25. The membership year runs from October through September. Dues for membership received prior to June 1, 2022, will be accepted as paid through September 30, 2022. Dues received on or after June 1 will be accepted as paid through September 30, 2023.

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please include me in the MSBA Breeders Directory.

Web URL: _____

Breed(s): _____ No. Ewes: _____

Send form and \$25 check made payable to MSBA to Kris Thorne, Membership Chair, 1130 Martin Drive, Westminster, MD 21157. She will contact you for additional information for the breeders directory and online profile.