

THE ILLINOIS SHEPHERD

Newsletter of the Illinois Sheep Industry

The Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers, & Illinois Sheep and Wool Marketing Board

www.illinoissheep.net

Spring Issue

May 2011

Illinois Sheep Industry Day—April 16th

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The 2011 Illinois Sheep Industry barn tour was held April 16th at the Wettstein organic farm, Carlock, IL.

The Wettsteins's raise lamb as well as beef, poultry and pork on their 140 acre farm. Another of their poplar items is eggs. Although the weather did not cooperate and the group was a little soggy, the tour was very interesting and informative. Emily Wettstein showed the group the different areas of the farm. She explained how the pastures are rotated as well as the crop land to follow organic regulations. Emily also explained some of the time saving practices they have developed. Their main marketing avenue is farmers markets and they travel about 3 hours to a market near Chicago. There is a lot of demand for their products.

Next, the group moved to the Congerville City Hall for a delicious lamb BBQ lunch prepared by Mary Beth

After lunch Dave Trotter from Marysville, Indiana presented updates from the American Lamb Board. Dave is a director on the lamb board from our region. Dave explained some of the new promotions the ALB is involved in, including "Move over ham here comes Lamb.", There is new a fans of lamb website, www.fansoflamb.com and face book page. The lamb board has also sponsored a chef competition called "lamb takedown."

Dave also explained the American Lamb Board matching grant program. State associations can use the grants to

promote events utilizing lamb. The grants are matching grants and there are two cycles each year in the spring and fall. More information is available at www.americanlamb.com. The website www.lambcheckoff.com is the website where lamb promotion materials can be ordered as well as check off forms. A suggestion was made for the American Lamb Board to become involved in the Taste of Chicago held every summer.

Bob Bensen from Westfield, Indiana, American Sheep Industry director region III, also attended the meeting. Bob spoke about the ASI program 2 +2+ 2. This program is designed to rebuild the sheep industry to meet the strong demand. Both lamb prices and wool prices have been strong recently. Bob informed the group that 30 % of lamb marketed in the US is done so by non-traditional marketing. These non-traditional areas include farmers markets, small processors, direct farm sales as well as ethnic markets. More information on the ASI 2+2+2 program is available on page 3 of this newsletter. A new websites are also being developed to explain the program: www.growourflock.org.

Bob also shared another initiative to include the ewe lamb retention program in the upcoming farm bill. The annual meeting s of the Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers as well as the Illinois Sheep & Wool Marketing Board was held. See pages 4 and 5 for the minutes from these meetings.



Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers

2011-2012 Officers

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The Illinois Shepherd is the official publication of the Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers and The Illinois Wool & Sheep Marketing Board. It is published four times a year.

All Illinois Sheep breed and regional groups are encouraged to submit articles about their activities to the newsletter. Send all correspondence to Jane Zeien, Executive Secretary.

Breeders directory available upon request.

IL Sheep & Wool Marketing Board

Illinois Sheep & Wool Marketing Board elections will be held July 6th. Board seats in District 1, 4 & 7 are up for reelection. The counties in these regions are as follows: District 1 – Boone, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Kane, Lake, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago. District 4 – Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Peoria, Putman, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford. District 7 – Alexandra, Bond, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, St. Clair, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, William-

son.

Dead line to turn in petitions to place your name on the ballot is May 31st. Petitions are available from Bob Reese; Bob.Reese@illinois.gov. Write in votes are also allowed. Voting can be completed at your local extension office.

Midwest Fiber Festival

The 5th annual Midwest Fiber & Folk Festival is being held June 24-26th at the Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, Illinois. The fair is open Friday and Saturday from 10am to 6pm. And Sunday 10 am—4 pm. Admission is \$10/day.

The fair features many different workshops. There is something for every one. Brush up on a skill you enjoy or learn a something new and exciting. There are workshops for knitting, felting, basket making, natural dyeing, weaving, quilting, hand spinning, crochet, rug hooking, bobbin lace, beading and many more,

There will also be a number of fiber art demonstrations. Fiber artists will display their wonderful art work in an exquisite and inspiring exhibit. Exhibits include a vintage handbag, garment and fine art.

Live folk music is played during the entire fair. Sit, relax and enjoy the wonderful music.

The fair also offers an opportunity to shop for the finest fiber, roving, yarn and supplies. The fair marketplace offers all types of inspiring and delightful fiber.

New this year is a fleece competition. There is still time to enter your fleeces, entries close June 8th. The classes for wool are divided into fine, medium, long and double coated There are also classes for alpaca and llama fleeces. It is always interesting to hear what someone else has to say about your fiber. Grand and Reserve Champions will be named in each class. Fleeces can also be offered for sale after the show. You set the prices for your own fleece.

The fair is also looking for volunteers. Volunteers help with registration, the exhibits, assist workshop teachers, are greeters, as well as set up and take down. Volunteers need to pre-register and attend a training session. Forms can be found on the website www.fiberandfolk.com.

For more information the phone number is 815-276-2537. Phone hours are M-F 10am—4 pm. The website has all the information and can be found at www.fiberandfolk.com.

Illinois Sheep & Wool

Marketing Board

2010-2011 Directors

District 1

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Ram Test Sale

The 2011 Illinois Ram Test Sale is July 9th. The sale is held at Western Illinois University Livestock center, Macomb, IL. This is your chance to purchase a top quality ram and add performance to your breeding program. This year rams are available

The Illinois Ram Test is the only performance test in the area. Rams are fed a pelletized feed ration and daily intake as well as daily weight is recorded using feed intake recording equipment. Thus very accurate feed efficiency information is measured for each ram. This type of system has been very effective in detecting health problems before visual signs appear. The rams are also inspected for soundness of feet, legs and mouth. Only those rams that show soundness are entered in the sale.

The rams are also ultra-sounded and scan data provided for rib eye area and rib fat as well as scrotal circumference. Following is a list of the entire test data collected for each ram.

ADG: x.xx 63) The average daily gain of the ram while on test.

The 63 refers to the length of the test period. **S/S, Tw/ Tw, Tr / S** Ram's type of birth and type of rearing **Ewe Prod.** This number indicates the ram's potential to sire daughters that have a good lamb drop. It is based on the life-time productivity of the ram's mother, plus his sire's type of birth.

Scrotal Circ.: Circumference of the scrotum at the largest point, measured in centimeters. **REA:** and **Fat:** Ribeye area and fat measurement at the twelfth rib, ultrasonically scanned when the rams came off test. Both of these figures are adjusted to a 150 pound basis. Thus the figures represent what the ram would have for muscling and fat if he weighed 150 pounds, not necessarily what he has today.

Feed Eff: The amount of feed consumed per pound of body weight gain.

General Index: A general index that combines the average

daily gain, feed efficiency, rib eye area, rib fat and ewe productivity of the ram into one figure to allow a good comparison between rams for total performance. The general index evaluates all six traits according to their economic importance.

Terminal Sire Index: A terminal sire index similar to the general index except that only average daily gain, feed efficiency, ribeye area and rib fat are evaluated. This index is best used to evaluate rams to be used primarily to produce market lambs. **Maternal Line Index:** A replacement sire index similar to the general index except that more emphasis is placed on ewe productivity. This index is best used to evaluate rams that will be used primarily to sires replacement ewes.

Don't let these good rams pass you buy. Directions to the sale: **From the North and South:** Take highway 67 to the north edge of Macomb and turn west on Tower Road. Go about one mile, and just past the university golf course, on your left, the large metal building on your left is the WIU Livestock Center **From the East:** Take highway 136 until it joins highway 67 at the east edge of Macomb. Then take highway 67 to the north edge of Macomb and turn west on Tower Road. Go about one mile, and just past the university golf course, on your left, the large metal building on your left is the WIU Livestock Center. **From the West:** Take highway 136 into Macomb and turn left (north) onto Wigwam Hollow Road (there is a stop light and a Casey's at that intersection). Follow Wigwam Hollow Road north, and just before it intersects with Tower Road, the WIU Livestock Center will be on your right side.

A free lamb BBQ will precede the sale. Come early to enjoy the BBQ and take a look at the rams.

Minutes Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting April 16, 2011

The annual meeting was held Saturday, April 16th at the Congerville Village Hall in Congerville, IL. Vice President Elton Mau called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Roll call of directors and officers indicated the following were present; Elton Mau, Anne Crider, Jane Zeien, Region III Gene McGrew, Region IV Mic Crouch.

Jane Zeien read the minutes from the 2010 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. All were in favor. Jane Zeien submitted the Treasures report and the following bills for approval; C-far membership, \$250; IL FFA foundation, \$100; IL 4-H foundation, \$100; National Lamb Feeders membership \$25.00. There was a discussion regarding changes at C-Far, sheep are now considered specialty area. Suggestion was made for ILWP not to support this funding. A motion to accept the treasure report and pay listed bills with the exception of C-Far was made and seconded and all approved

Old Business:

There was a discussion regarding the lamb stand at the Illinois State Fair. Ed and Allison McEwen did again send the ILWP \$250 from last year's proceeds. It was suggested to invite the Queens from different breed associations to pass out lamb samples at different times during the fair. An annual report is needed from the food stand. State records indicate different numbers than reported. In the future a contract is needed with the vendor using the ILWP space. Secretary to send letter to McEwen's asking for annual report.

New Business:

Nominations are needed for the 2011 outstanding sheep breeder award. This award is presented at the Illinois State Fair. Nominations are due in June to the State Fair Office. Suggestions should be given to any of the officers of ILWP. It was suggested to inquiry if two peo-

ple could be recognized. Two suggestions were given at the annual meeting.

Jane presented a lamb recipe booklet that can be printed with information concerning Illinois producers along with recipes and facts about lamb & wool. It would be a good booklet to promote lamb at many different functions. Cost for printing is \$2.00 for 500 booklets. ILWP could sell them for a small profit. It was suggested to look into the matching grant program of the American lamb board to help with printing costs.

Terry Becherer suggested ILWP investigate Jeffers Livestock affiliate program. After ILWP is signed up and puts the link to Jeffers Livestock on the website, Jeffers will pay some money back to the association. Jane will get this set up and on the website. A suggestion was made to contact Premier and Midstates to see if they have a similar program.

Gene suggested that the newsletter be sent to ASI so they can put it on their website. Also, emailing the newsletter may help save costs.

The deadline for registration for the Howard Wyman sheep management school was mentioned. This deadline is May 2nd.

Elton presented the nominating committee report and slate of officers and directors for the year. Those nominated for office included, President - Elton Mau; Vice President- Terry Becherer; Anne Crider - Secretary/Treasurer; Jane Zeien - Executive Secretary. Julie Barr - Region I director, Audrey Angus - Region II director; Gene McGrew - Region III director, Alternate Barry Fischer; Nancy Leapley - Region V director, Alternate Harold Ellenbrock; Brian Houser - Region VI; Dennis Thomas - Region VIII; Jim Tjaden and Ed McQuen - directors at large. A motion was made to accept the nominations currently in place and have the executive committee appoint directors to the open spots. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

Many in attendance suggested holding the meeting earlier next year as April is hard for farmers to make. It was also suggested to hold two meetings a year, as stated in the bylaws, maybe by conference call. Letters should be sent to all the directors to inform them of the meetings.

Cathe Caple explained a program she is working with that assists those starting in farming. She has had several new farmers interested in raising sheep. She asked for volunteers to serve as mentors

Jane explained her appointment to the Illinois Livestock Advisory Board..

Anne Crider was elected, at the annual ASI meeting, to serve as ASI women - Vice President. Anne explained their mission and mentioned how well the contestants from Illinois did at the national make it with wool contest. They were assisted by Marilyn Donoho.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm and seconded with all approving.

Respectively submitted by Jane Zeien



Illinois Sheep & Wool Marketing Board Annual Meeting

Chairman Ray Mohr called the meeting to order at 2:15pm. Roll call indicated the following directors were present: Barb Hintzche, district 1; Harold Davis, district 2; Gene McGrew, district 3; Helen Hettlinger, district 4; Kirby Ballard, district 5; Ray Mohr, district 6, Walt Stubbs, district 7. All directors were present. Also in attendance were Jane Zeien, Executive Secretary, Marilyn Donoho, IL make it with wool director, Anne Crider representing the Monroe County Sheep Producers.

A motion was made to appoint Ray Mohr to the director position for district 6 for the remainder of the term. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

The minutes of the annual meeting March 13, 2010 were presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

Jane Zeien presented the financial audit prepared by Lawrence Travis & Trust Co. A motion was made to approve the audit as the financial statement of the board. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. There was discussion regarding investigating a different firm to conduct the audit to reduce costs.

Old Business:

Marilyn Donoho presented a report on the activities of the Make it with wool contest in 2010 and at the National contest. Included in her report was a scrapbook with pictures of the events. The coming year will be the 50th anniversary of the contest.

Anne Crider reported on the Southern Illinois Sheep Festival and Jane Zeien reported on the Illinois State Fair shearing contest.

New Business:

There was discussion regarding the proposed budget and the shortfall in funds projected again. Action on the budget was delayed until after review of the individual grant applications.

Grant applications were review

by the board individually. First was the application by the Monroe County Sheep Producers. It was suggested for next year to have the group investigate alternate funding, possibly the AIB industry grant program. A motion was made to approve the 2011 grant application from the Monroe County Sheep Producers. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

The Make It With Wool grant application was reviewed. A motion was made to approve this application. Gene asked if the amount applied included funding to promote the 50th anniversary. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

The Illinois Green Pasture Coop application was reviewed. The board asked for more information regarding the application. Suggestions were also given as to possible advertising options for the coop. A motion was made to approve the application. This motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

The Kline Creek application was reviewed. The board asked for more information regarding the financial break down of how funds are used. Also 2011 funds will not be paid until a 2010 report is received. A motion was made to approve the Kline Creek application. The motion was seconded. There was one vote against and 5 votes for. The motion passed.

The grant application from Ester's Place was reviewed. The board questioned the application from a private for profit enterprise. A motion was made to approve the grant application. This motion was seconded. There were three votes against, one abstain and two votes for. This motion did not pass. A new motion to approve the grant at \$500 was made and seconded. There were three votes against, one abstaining and two votes for. This motion did not pass.

A new motion was made to approve the grant at \$250 was made. This motion was seconded. There

were four votes for and one vote against with one abstaining. This motion passed.

The grant request for the Ram test dinner was reviewed. There was a motion to reject this grant application. This motion was seconded. Discussion amongst the board that it is a good promotion of lamb and the only test in the area. There were four votes in favor and 2 votes opposing the motion. Motion passed. A new motion was made to approve the grant at \$100. This motion was seconded. There were 3 votes in favor and 3 votes against the motion. The chairman broke the tie with a vote against. The motion did not pass.

The grant request for the Illinois shearing contest was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the application. This motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

A motion was made to approve the amended budget. This motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

The board suggested a letter be drafted to all those applying for a grant explaining that grant applications exceeded revenue again and suggesting alternative funding sources be investigated.

A motion was made to amend the grant applications for the following year, 2012, to require a representative be present for any amount requested over \$300. This motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

A motion was made to retain the same officers as the previous year. This motion was seconded and all approved. A motion was made to renew the Executive Secretary's contract for another year. This motion was seconded and all approved.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 3:30pm. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Respectively submitted by Jane Zeien, Executive Secretary, April 16, 2011.

Southern Illinois Sheep & Craft Festival

Submitted by Richard Woodcock

The 25th Annual Sheep and Craft Festival was very successful and attendance was up again this year. Weather cooperated, it was perfect weather ---- sunny, warm, and no rain!

Vendors and exhibitors came in on Friday night to set up booths and be ready for Saturdays activities. Again we had an outstanding group in the exhibit area with 30 plus exhibits and vendor booths, all spaces were filled, with a couple new ones. These vendors had a wide variety of high quality sheep and wool related items. The local spinning group, "The Warped and Twisted" was there again doing demonstrations in the exhibit area throughout the day.

"Kids Corner" was a popular spot again for youngsters. Kids kept the Corner busy all day enjoying games, prizes, and activities learning about sheep. We added a couple other fun activities for kids. A pedal tractor pull "The Wool-Pull" sponsored by the county Farm Bureau Young farmers group. The other was mini stagecoach rides sponsored by several local businesses. All of these were well attended and attracted kids and parents to the exhibit areas and other activities of the day.

Another part of the morning activity was the Judging contest for all youth in the 4-H and FFA age category. Turnout was excellent, with 30 plus individuals participating in team and individual competition.



Dick Cobb was the official judge and worked with the contestants on placing and reasons.

As in past years, the lamb lunch was very well attended and one of the main attractions of the day. We surpassed last years attendance, serving right at 600 people at the noon meal. People continue to compliment the meal and like the selection of lamb -- leg, chops, burger, and brats, they can choose what they want to have or try some of each.

The sales of pre-packaged lamb cuts at the Monroe County Sheep Producers booth were up again this year compared to last. Again this year we offered Denver ribs, boned leg, chops, burgers, brats, lamb sausage, and smokies. We have seen a big increase in advanced orders that were picked up on Sheep Day. Total sales of cuts for 2011 Sheep Day were over 20% higher than last year. We processed 27 lambs for the event and by the end of the day we were sold out at the lunch room and less than 20 lb. left at the meat sales booth.

Other activities ---

Shearing Demonstrations, done hourly 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. by Craig Hick

Sheep Dog Demonstrations were presented by Robin Reasoner. A crowd pleasing event that always attracts lot of spectators, they like watching the dogs and are amazed at how

they work.

Sheep Olympics -- a fun activity for kids can participate in, moving a sheep over an

obstacle course, the fastest time winning a cash prize.

Sheep Pellet Bingo -- Run by one of the local 4-H clubs that also sell soft drinks and baked items in exhibit area. 4-Her's sell chances to players that buy the square they a sheep will drop the most pellets on.

An Antique Tractor display and a performance by Thunder and Lightning cloggers are entertaining activities that draw a lot of attention and hold a good crowd around the exhibit area.

The Festival was another successful day and we look forward to next year's



ASI Reveals the Let's Grow with twoPLUS Campaign

Video Contest and New Website Announced

Denver, Colo. – The U.S. sheep industry is finding itself amidst an encouraging time: lamb prices are at an all-time high, the wool market is the highest it's been since 1989 and the cull ewe and pelt markets are very lucrative. However, from the farm gate through to the lamb and wool processing level, there is a shared concern about meeting the demand for lamb and wool production in the United States.

Lamb processors, from the commercial market channel to the rapidly growing nontraditional markets, are clamoring for a greater supply of lamb. In 2011, two major announcements to carry American lamb in our nation's grocery stores occurred: Kroger, one of the nation's largest grocery store chains, launched an American lamb branded campaign and Super Wal-Mart made a commitment to exclusively carry American lamb in its stores. And the nontraditional market channels, which include on-farm sales, farmers markets and small processors serving ethnic communities, have grown exponentially over the years. In fact, one-third of the U.S. lamb crop has moved outside the traditional industry infrastructure to feed this nontraditional lamb market. As an industry, we must supply the traditional market channel to keep American lamb in the nation's largest grocery store chains and restaurants all while meeting the emerging demand for American lamb in the nontraditional markets.

This robust demand for product is also being experienced in the wool market. The U.S. military, the largest domestic consumer of U.S. wool, is excited for the opportunity to clothe our troops in high-performance washable wool products. The equipment that makes washable wool-top has been installed in the United States and is being used for a variety of domestically produced wool products that are already reaching the military and commercial markets.

A strategy to strengthen the lamb and wool industry's infrastructure by increasing the number of sheep in pro-

duction is vital for the long-term sustainability of the industry. This is why the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is calling on sheep producers, both large and small, from east to west, to help accomplish the goal of growing our flock. ASI has come up with a formula to address these shortages within just a few years, it's called Let's Grow with twoPLUS. With three goals in mind, the primary objective of this campaign is to encourage current producers to expand their sheep numbers by 2014. This initiative will result in 315,000 more lambs and 2 million more pounds of wool for the industry to market.

The three goals are: encourage producers to increase the size of their operation by two ewes per operation or by two ewes per 100 by 2014; encourage sheep producers to increase the average birthrate per ewe to two lambs per year; and encourage producers to increase the harvested lamb crop by 2 percent – from 108 percent to 110 percent.

ASI has developed a website (www.growourflock.org) and materials to help spread the word of the initiative. The site includes a video explaining the twoPLUS program, Let's Grow partners who are participating in the campaign, resources for producers, an open forum for producers to communicate with one another and a section for media promotion.

To garner excitement about the rollout of this campaign, ASI and the American Lamb Board (ALB) are inviting producers to join in the twoPLUS video competition. If you have a story to share about growing your flock, we want to hear it! Tell us how you are going to incorporate the twoPLUS goals into your operation and showcase the production efficiencies you are utilizing to increase your flock size. We also want to hear your thoughts on how you can have an impact on the size of the national sheep flock.

The winner of the video contest will be featured as a Let's Grow partner on the new website and win a Summer Grilling Picnic Pack courtesy of ALB, which includes a cooler, blanket, hat, t-shirt, metal sign, water bottle and

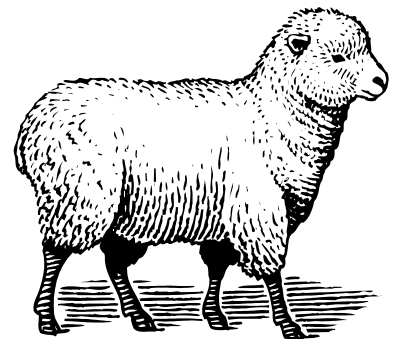


apron. All entries will receive a thank-you gift for your time and participation.

To enter, create a short original video (no longer than five minutes) and upload it to Youtube.com. Then email the link of your video and your contact information (name, address, email and phone number) to amy@sheepusa.org. Entries will be judged on creativity, appropriateness and effectiveness. The submission deadline is June 30, 2011, and the grand-prize winner will be announced on ASI's and ALB's Facebook page by mid-July.

Additional Let's Grow activities and resources will be revealed throughout the year to continue the promotion of the campaign and assist producers in meeting the goals of increased production

**2+2+2
by 2014**



Five National Sales Return To Springfield -June 17-18

Submitted by Chris Hopkins

The Illinois State Fairgrounds will once again be the site for a weekend of sheep sales in the month of June this year.

The Springfield Spring Sheep Sale weekend will be the location for five National Sheep Sales. They will be the National Oxford Show and Sale, National Cheviot Show and Sale, the National North Country Cheviot Show and Sale, the Nation Lincoln Show and Sale, and the Shrop-Spectacular, which is the National Shropshire Show and Sale. All five sales will be taking place from Thursday June 16 till Saturday June 18 at the fairgrounds.

This year's sales will be confined to two barns, unlike the past years where there were three barns

full of sheep. The Montadales and Polypays will not be at this year's Springfield Spring Sheep Sale, which makes it possible for the entire sale to fit into two of the barns on the grounds. Oxfords and Cheviots will be in the Goat barn this year, while the Lincolns, Shropshires and North Country Cheviots will be in the Main Barn right next door. The shows will take place on Friday, June 17, during the day and the sales will then take place on the Saturday, June 18.

Friday will also be the night that all five breed associations will hold their annual meetings and banquets somewhere in the area of the grounds. The breed secretaries would know more about the when and where of these annual meetings that will be taking place during the Springfield sale. The North Country

Cheviots breeders can contact their secretary, Bonnie Henny at 503/792-3448. For Oxford breeders, Mary Blome is their secretary and she can be reached at 217/325-3515. Breeders of Cheviots that plan on attending the sale can contact Jeff Ebert at 785/458-9174. Shropshire breeders can call Becky Peterson, Shropshire Secretary, at 413/6249652 for more information regarding their meeting. As for the Lincoln breeders their secretary, Debbie Vanderwende, can be reached at 302/349-4240.

Additional information regarding the sales or entries may be made by contacting Banner Sale Management, Cuba, IL at (309)785-5058 or check their website: www.bannersheepmagazine.com.

Jeffers Livestock Supply

Announcing a new program with Jeffers Livestock. Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers is now an affiliate member of the Jeffers livestock supply company. Jeffers Livestock is an on line supplier of all types of livestock supplies and medications. Everyone can help raise money for the Illinois Lamb & Wool Producer programs when they order from Jeffers Livestock. There is no cost to you. In order for ILWP to get the benefit, the link on the Illinois

Lamb and Wool Producer website needs to be used. The Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers website is www.illinoisheep.net. The Jeffers Livestock link is on the front page. Click on the name and it will take you right to the website. Then continue shopping as you would typically. Once your order is placed, the ILWP will get reimbursed. Again, no extra cost will be added to your bill. The program works like an advertisement. ILWP is compensated when the "ad" on our website is used.



Illinois Make It With Wool Contest

The 2011 Illinois Make It with Wool Contest is being held October 1st in Peoria, IL.

This is the 50 year anniversary of the contest. Nothing sews like Wool! The purpose of the contest is to focus attention on the beauty and versatility of wool and encourage

More seamstress to choose wool. Garments must contain a minimum of 60 % wool. The garments must have been completed after January 1st 2011.

The class divisions are as follows: Adult, Senior (17-24), Junior (13-16) and preteen (12 and under).

This year's Make it with Wool Contest is being held in conjunction with the ASG Sew Special.

For more information and entry forms contact Marilyn Donoho 815-627-9422 or black1959@aol.com

ILWP Membership

The Illinois shepherd is going digital. We will now be emailing the newsletter to those who would rather receive it electronically. Send an email to jzcci@aol.com to request an electronic version rather than a printed, mailed copy.

Join ILWP or renew Today!

Your Membership means you have a voice.

Benefits:

- A Connection with producers throughout the state
- Support Lamb & Wool group promotions throughout the state.
- Membership in C-FAR (Council for Ag Research)
- Membership with National Organization – American Sheep Industry
- Connection with University Extension programs
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Alliance with other State Ag Groups
- Active involvement in State Fair programs to promote Lamb & Wool

Invite a friend to join!

2011 ILLINOIS LAMB & WOOL -DUES	
NAME _____	PHONE _____
EMAIL _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____	
WHAT BREED(S) DO YOU RAISE _____	
NUMBER OF BROOD EWES _____	
ILLINOIS LAMB AND & WOOL PRODUCERS 2011 Dues	\$20.00
ADDITIONAL AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY 2011 Dues	\$25.00
TOTAL FEE	\$45.00
Make check to ILWP and mail to: 10828 Caledonia Rd, Belvidere, IL 61008.	

Lamb Meatballs with Mediterranean Dip

2or 3 slices of bread, torn up
1 pound ground lamb
1 egg
1 tsp dried thyme
Sesame seeds

Place bread in an electric blender and pulse. Add enough bread to get 1 cup lightly packed bread crumbs.

Combine lamb, egg, bread crumbs, thyme and blend well, Form into 24 1 -inch meatballs.

Place meatballs in an oiled shallow baking pan.

Bake at 375 F for 10—12 minutes or until done.

Sprinkle meatballs with sesame seeds.

Yogurt dip—Mix 1 cup plain yogurt with 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill and 1 tsp. grated lemon peel. Garnish with fresh dill sprigs.

Hummus Dip—Drain 1 can (15 ounces) garbanzo beans, saving 1/4 cup liquid. Combine beans , 1 -2 large garlic gloves, 1/4 cup lemon juice, 1/4 cup olive oil and 1/4 cup garbanzo bean liquid in a blender. Puree.

Cool and serve

Submit your favorite Lamb recipe

Do you have a favorite lamb recipe that always makes your guests smile? Send it to jzcci@aol.com. ILWP will be putting together a lamb information/recipe book and would like to include your favorites.



Monroe County Sheep Producers—Wool Pool

The Monroe County Sheep Producers have set June 10 and June 11, 2011 as the dates for the Monroe County Wool Pool. We are making arrangements with Mid-States Wool Growers to buy the wool, and expect to operate as we have the past several years. We estimate 15,000 pounds of wool to be handled through the pool.

We will be taking wool at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on Friday June 10 from 6 PM to 9PM and Saturday June 11 from 8AM until noon. The Monroe County Fairgrounds is located one-half mile west of Waterloo on State Route 156. Enter the first gate, go straight ahead, pass in front of the Sheep/Goat barn to the Poultry/Rabbit Barn. Enter through the double doors, unload wool and then exit out the back door. Members of the Monroe County Sheep Producers will be there to assist you.

All wool should be bagged and prefer that fleeces not be tied. Wool bags will be available at the wool pool or if you need bags before June 10, contact Richard Woodcock at 939-8536.

A representative will be there to help mark bags and weigh your wool when you bring it in. You will be given new bags in exchange for those you bring in.

There will be two different ways you can sell your wool:

1) Sell Outright:

Your wool will be weighed at the wool pool.

Your wool will be checked and price quoted at the wool pool.

You will be issued a check for full payment, which will be mailed from the Mid-States office the week after wool pool.

2) Sell on Consignment:

Your wool will be weighed at the wool pool.

Wool will be taken to the buyers warehouse for grading.

About the second week of December you will receive payment for your wool.

No advance payment will be made at the wool pool for consignments.

When you deliver your wool to the wool pool let us know which way you want to sell your wool.

If you have any questions, contact :

(Richard Woodcock 939-8536, Nancy Sanford 458-4545, or Dennis Thomas 458-7256).



June 17-18 2011

Illinois State Fair

Springfield, IL

www.bannersheepmagazine.com 309-785-5058

National Lincoln Show & Sale

National Shropshire Show & Sale

National Cheviot & North Country

Cheviot Show & Sale

Show: Friday 9am Sales: Saturday 9am

Selling both white and colored Lincolns

Great selection -120 head entered

Sale Catalogs available at

www.bannersheepmagazine.com

Illinois Ram Test Sale

July 9, 2011

Western Illinois Univ.

Livestock Center

Macomb, IL

5 pm

Want fair prices for your lambs?

Market your lambs through our Raymond and Goreville Lamb Pools. Visit our website for dates.

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Illinois Wool and Fiber Mill Inc.
10828 Caledonia Road
Belvidere, IL 61008
Contact Jane for Details @
815.544.9582

jane@ilwoolfibermill.com

Visit our Website

www.ilwoolfibermill.com

The Illinois Lamb & Wool Producers, &

Jane Zeien
Executive Secretary
10828 Caledonia Rd.
Belvidere, IL 61008
jzcci@aol.com
815-544-1063

A Herd of LAUGHTER.



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Knight Light

Calendar of Events

2011 CALENDAR

June 10-11 2011	Monroe County Sheep Producers Wool Pool-Monroe County Fairgrounds
June 10 2011	Shawnee Sheep Producers Wool Pool-Anna, IL
June 17- 18	National Lincoln Sale & Show- Springfield
June 17-18	National Cheviot & north County Cheviot Sale & Show—Springfield
June 17-18	National Shropshire Show & Sale—Springfield
June 17-18	National Oxford Sale—Springfield
June 26-28	Midwest Fiber Festival—Grayslake, IL
July 9	Ram Test Sale
August 10-22	Illinois State Fair—Springfield, IL
August 14	Illinois State Fair shearing contest
August 12	Young Producers Contest—Springfield, IL

Try These
Web Sites

www.fansoflamb.com www.lambcheckoff.com
www.growourflock.org