

MARYLAND
SHEEP & WOOL
FESTIVAL

January 10th, 2023

Dear Exhibitors,

Happy New Year and hoping your Holidays were bright! We are very happy to be preparing for our 50th Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival celebration. I hope everyone is preparing for or in the midst of a great lambing season. We are excited to have the Jacob breeders as our 2023 Featured Breed. Please visit them in the southeast corner of Barn 7-8. We are also excited to be in the midst of planning the Northeastern Show for the Valais Blacknose sheep breed. There is a specific Entry Form for that breed attached.

We would really like to offer the same opportunity for other breeds to have breed specific classes in 2024. The criteria for that is at least 7 breeders and 30 head of sheep. We will be lenient on this as we have been in the past with other breeds.

At this point I believe we will be postponing our Ewe/Lamb sale until 2024. We would however like to reoffer the ability to pen sheep for sale that aren't entered in the show. The fee for this would be \$10.00 per head. We did this in the past and it was very successful. However, we would like to limit the number of sale-only animals to a number that is equal to or less than the number of show animals entered by the exhibitor. You are, of course, still welcome to sell animals you have shown via private treaty. The space for sale-only animals will be limited, so we will need that number included on your entry form. You can also contact us at MDSWF.sheepshow@gmail.com. We will let you know whether we can accommodate your request no later than April 15th. Payment of the fee for sale-only animals will be handled by check on Friday May 5th at the show office so that we do not need to refund money if the pens get filled.

We are hoping to incorporate junior shows into our scheduled breed shows. It has been done in the past for certain National Breed events. We think it is an extremely important part of our outreach in an effort to encourage younger shepherds to take over in the future. If you can attach a birthdate to any youth's entry after their name on the form it would be very helpful. If we have any problems with online entries I can adjust them on Friday at the festival during check-in.

We are still setting a tentative show schedule. It is much the same as the past but is subject to change. If certain breeds continue to be consistently low in numbers we may end up combining them with the White Wool or Natural Colored divisions. Please note that the Corriedale show will be late morning on Saturday. This helps the show on Sunday not extend into the Club Lamb Jackpot, Lead Line Competition, Parade of Breeds, and Youth Conservation Program which all follow on Sunday.

It is very difficult to move sheep/pens around after people have arrived at the festival, but we will if necessary to make space. This being said: Please let us know before April 20th if you are not coming or are bringing less sheep!

I also want to make you aware that there will be an admission fee charged at the gate again this year. We will ensure that our exhibitors will have entry and parking passes; please check with us when you arrive.

We are more than appreciative of your graciousness in working with our committee. We recognize that showing sheep takes great effort and is a time consuming task. We have new faces and great judges and we are very excited see you all in a few months.

There are a few MINOR changes to the schedule:

Tentative Schedule Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival 2023

Saturday May 6th 8:30 AM

Ring 1

Black Border Leicester
Corriedale
Jacob

Ring 2

White Wool Fine
White Wool Medium
White Wool Long

Lunch Break

Natural Colored Long
Natural Colored Medium
Natural Colored Fine

Karakul
Border Leicester
Northeastern Valais Blacknose (Registered and Purebred)

Sunday May 7th 8:30 AM

Romney

Black Romney

Black Lincoln

Lincoln

If any breed is below the required number of head/exhibitors we may place those animals in the correct White or Natural Colored wool classes.

ENTRY DEADLINES:

ALL entries must be postmarked no later than April 1st, 2023. A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed to all entries postmarked after April 1st (if space is available). NO entries will be accepted after April 10th. Once again we are offering an ONLINE entry option for the Sheep Show starting around March 4. See online entry procedure at the end of this letter.

As in the past years we will have a Supreme Fleece award, so don't overlook exceptional fleeces when choosing your sheep! Inquiries about sheep show entry forms, the fleece show and other Festival events should be directed to the Festival office at (410) 531-3647 or office@sheepandwool.org. For other questions, contact Mara Mullinix at (301) 865-4224, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EST, or at MDSWF.sheepshow@gmail.com

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

The Festival continues to maintain a NO DOGS policy: Please be advised that no dogs (and/or puppies) will be allowed to accompany exhibitors, vendors or the public onto the fairgrounds. The only dogs which will be allowed onto the fairgrounds are service dogs and those dogs participating in the working sheepdog demonstrations. Anyone not complying with this policy will be required to remove their dog(s) from the fairgrounds.

Good Lambing!

See you in May,

Mara Mullinix and the Sheep Show Committee

MARYLAND SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL
SHEEP SHOWS

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

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

1. **ENTRY FEES:** Entry fee per animal per show - \$10.00. Any breed having a breed show shall be ineligible to show in either the White Wool or Natural Colored Divisions unless determined due to number conflicts by committee.
2. **LAMB AGES:**
Junior Lambs – born between January 1 and February 15, 2023
Junior Lambs born after February 15, 2023 may not be shown.
3. **INQUIRIES:** Inquiries about sheep show entry forms, the fleece show and other Festival events should be directed to the Festival office at (410) 531-3647 or office@sheepandwool.org. For other questions, contact Mara Mullinix at (301) 865-4224, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EST, or at MDSWF.sheepshow@gmail.com.
4. **HEALTH RULES AND REGULATIONS:** Please see new Maryland Animal Health Fair and Show Requirements at <http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>.
 - All Maryland entries must be accompanied by a Maryland Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian within ninety (90) days of the opening date of the Festival.
 - All out-of-state entries must be accompanied by an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued by an accredited veterinarian within thirty (30) days of the opening date of the Festival.
 - In addition to the appropriate CVI, a Livestock Exhibitors Self Certification of Animal Health is required for all sheep brought onto the fairgrounds.
 - All sheep must be officially scrapie-identified via USDA-approved ear tag, legible tattoo, or a microchip ID (if the owner provides the reader).
 - ANIMALS FAILING TO MEET COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION OF ALL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DENIED ENTRY OR REMOVED FROM THE FAIRGROUNDS IMMEDIATELY.
5. **EXHIBIT/SELL:** Due to Maryland Veterinary Inspection standards no animals can be kept/penned outside festival buildings. If you sell your animals while at the festival, please do not allow the purchaser to remove the animal from your pens until after release on Sunday. If this occurs, ineligibility for future MSWF shows and/or forfeiture of premium money may occur. If you have an animal that you have pre-sold, please have the CVI completed by your veterinarian along with your show papers. All animals that are moved from Maryland and not returned to the state of origin MUST be accompanied by a Maryland CVI. The scrapie program has enabled animals to be tracked from farm to farm. We know that the health certificate requirements can be confusing, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Mara Mullinix at (301)865-4224, or at MDSWF.sheepshow@gmail.com

6. NO ENTRY FEES WILL BE REFUNDED.
7. BEST FLEECE CLASS: Breed shows will have a best fleece-in show class. All exhibitors participating in these breed shows may select one animal to compete in this class. Animal must be shown in breed show and may be a ram or ewe, yearling or lamb. Animals competing in this class will be judged on excellence of fleece only. Ribbons and \$35 will be awarded. There will be an overall best fleece category for the Natural Colored show.
8. REGISTRATION: Sheep entered in the purebred shows must be registered in the name of the consignor by April 15 and must be presented with a registration certificate, ear tag or tattoo which corresponds to the registration certificate.
9. JUDGING CRITERIA: PUREBRED SHEEP will be judged by the breed standards of their respective breed associations. White Wool Sheep must have 100% white wool. WHITE WOOL AND NATURAL COLORED SHEEP will be judged 60% on wool quality and 40% on conformation. NATURAL COLORED SHEEP must have at least 35% colored wool. White Wool and Natural Colored Sheep will be shown in the following three classes:
 - Fine Wool: spinning count of 60's and above; fine and ½ blood; micron – 24.94 – 17.70 inclusive.
 - Medium Wool: spinning count of 50's to 58's; 3/8 blood and ¼ blood; micron – 30.99 – 24.95 inclusive
 - Long Wool: spinning count 44's to 48's; low ¼ blood and common; micron – 36.19 – 31.00 inclusive
10. ENTRY LIMITS: An exhibitor may enter two (2) sheep in any one individual class. Animals may not be double entered in shows.
11. NUMBER EXHIBITED: A Breed Show must have at least thirty-five (35) head exhibited by five (5) exhibitors. Any Breed Show falling below this number may be placed on probation for the next year and MAY be dropped if it does not meet the required numbers.
12. REMOVAL/RELEASE OF EXHIBITS: You will be expected to keep your livestock on the grounds until release time. Failure to do so without show committee approval could result in forfeiture of premium money.
13. SUBSTITUTION/CHECK-IN: Substitutions within class will be permitted. Substitution must be filed with the show clerks no later than 6:00 p.m. Friday. ALL ANIMALS MUST BE CHECKED IN WITH SHOW COORDINATORS.
14. CHECK-IN: 1:00–6:00 P.M. FRIDAY. No check in will occur after this time.
15. PENS: Pens will be available after 12 noon, Thursday before the show. NO SHEEP ALLOWED ON THE FAIRGROUNDS BEFORE 12 NOON ON THURSDAY without permission from the Show Committee. ALL SHEEP MUST BE PENNED BY 6:00 P.M. FRIDAY NIGHT. The barn superintendents may not waive this rule except in extreme emergencies. We can be contacted on (301) 748-8385 on Friday or you can leave a message at (301) 865-4224 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST, if you are delayed to arrive by this time.
16. PENNING: We are penning in 4 barns – Barns 1 & 2 directly across from the show ring, the main show barn and Barn 7-8. Indicate on your entry or in a note if you want to be penned near or with another exhibitor. PLEASE DO NOT MOVE YOUR PENNING LOCATIONS WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH THE SHEEP SHOW OFFICE. ONLY THOSE SHEEP ENTERED TO SHOW MAY BE PENNED. WE ENDEAVOR TO HONOR PENNING REQUESTS. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL EXHIBITORS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO PENS AS REQUESTED. YOU MAY APPLY IN THE OFFICE TO MOVE YOUR SHEEP TO UNOCCUPIED PENS AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR ARRIVAL ON

FRIDAY P.M. We really appreciate your efforts in the last years. It makes our lives much happier!!!!!!

17. We would appreciate being notified if, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are unable to attend or are bringing less sheep. Please call and leave a message for Mara Mullinix at (301) 748-8385 or (301) 865-4224. Or send an email to MDSWF.sheepshow@gmail.com

18. Remember.....INITIAL straw bedding will be provided this year.

19. **NOTE: *Un-weaned baby lambs* or those less than 60 days of age are not allowed AT THE FESTIVAL! This is very important due to health issues.**

AWARDS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supreme Fleece: A monetary award of \$100 and a plaque will be given for the animal whose fleece is chosen from those who have been awarded Best Fleece in each show.

DIRECTIONS TO THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS:

The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival is held at the Howard County Fairgrounds, located west of the city of Baltimore in Howard County, Maryland.

Howard County Fairgrounds
2210 Fairgrounds Road
West Friendship, MD 21794-9604

From Baltimore, MD I-70

Take I-70 WEST to MD-32 SOUTH via exit 80 towards Sykesville/Clarksville.
Turn LEFT onto MD-32 SOUTH.
Turn RIGHT onto MD-144 WEST (Frederick Road).
Turn RIGHT at Fairgrounds Road into the EAST ENTRANCE of the fairgrounds.

From Frederick, MD I-70

Take I-70 EAST to MD-97 SOUTH via exit 76 towards Olney/Cooksville.
Turn LEFT onto MD-144 EAST (Frederick Road).
Turn LEFT at Fairgrounds Road into the EAST ENTRANCE of the fairgrounds.

From Washington, DC I-95

Take I-95 NORTH, to the MD-32 WEST exit (38B), towards Columbia.
MERGE onto MD-32 W.
Turn LEFT onto MD-144 WEST (Frederick Road).
Turn RIGHT at Fairgrounds Road into the EAST ENTRANCE of the fairgrounds.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are many motels available within 30 miles. Call 1-800-4CHOICE to access Econo-lodge, Comfort Inn, Quality Inn, etc. For information on lodging in Howard County call 1-800-288-TRIP. Some hotels are offering special rates for Festival attendees. Look for Lodging under Info & FAQs on the Festival website www.sheepandwool.org.

FESTIVAL OFFICE: (410) 531-3647 or office@sheepandwool.org.

ONLINE ENTRY PROCEDURE:

Go to <https://sheepandwool.fairwire.com/>

- Click “Sign In” to begin and then choose “Exhibitor”.
- Select either “I am a new exhibitor or have yet to register this year” or “I have previously registered this year”. You must create a new account every year. (Tip: You can avoid having to create a new account every year by signing up for ShoWorks Passport, a free service which gives you a secure way of creating a permanent exhibitor account to keep year-after-year and use across all fairs and shows that use ShoWorks.)
- Select “Sheep Show” in Department, select the desired Division, and follow the online prompts.

Note: If entering a pair or flock, enter each sheep in the individual class, and then select Pair or Flock and enter the Sheep ID/name. If you are part of the Breed Display, or have specific penning requests, please let us know in comments at checkout.