

March 20, 2024

## Updates and Guidelines for Fleece Producers entering the 2024 Fleece Show & Sale

We're gearing up for the 51<sup>st</sup> annual MD Sheep & Wool Festival Fleece Show & Sale!

Once again, this information packet is being emailed directly to our past producer exhibitors and can also be downloaded from the Festival website ([www.sheepandwool.org](http://www.sheepandwool.org)). Please let us know if you would prefer not to receive this message and we'll be sure to take you off the list.

### THE USUAL REMINDERS:

1. **NO MECHANISM FOR ONLINE ENTRIES.** Please fill out paper entry forms and mail them with a check.
2. **NO LATE ENTRIES.** All entries must be **RECEIVED by Thursday, April 25.** No new entries will be accepted the day of fleece check-in (Friday, May 3rd). If you have questions about the entry process, feel free to contact us ahead of time.
3. **FLEECE CHECK-IN: FRIDAY, MAY 3rd 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** at the back of the building. No entries will be accepted after 4:30.
4. **WHOLE FLEECES ONLY.** Please **DO NOT** enter split fleeces or partial fleeces as separate entries. The Fleece Show & Sale is for the sale and evaluation of whole fleeces. Keep in mind that judging takes into account the weight of the fleece appropriate to the breed type. There are other avenues for selling raw wool by the pound.
5. **DO NOT PRICE FOR NO-SALE.** Once again, we ask that you do not place exorbitant prices on fleeces in the hopes that they will not sell. If you wish to enter a fleece in competition to be judged but don't want to sell it, we recommend you take it to one of the other venues that have a no-sale option.

**Cormo, Karakul and Rambouillet exhibitors PLEASE NOTE:** We have had so few entries in these breed specific classes that they are officially "on probation". This means that if we don't get sufficient numbers/producers in these classes in 2024, we will no longer have those classes, and fleeces from those breeds will be entered in the appropriate Division (I or II) and class.

**REMINDER:** To establish a new breed-specific class (Division III) we must be guaranteed a total of at least 10 fleeces from at least 3 different producers, and it must be applied for by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

What follows is the information printed in the Festival catalog regarding the 2024 Fleece Show & Sale, followed by some additional helpful tips for successfully completing your entries. In addition, we have included in this package the summary data from the 2023 Fleece Show & Sale that may help you determine your prices. Also included is the full-page entry form – in both .pdf and .xls formats (the .pdf can be downloaded from the Festival website as well).

# 2024 Fleece Show & Sale

Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Lee Langstaff, 24020 Old Hundred Road, Dickerson, MD 20842  
301-908-9332; fleeceshow@sheepandwool.org

## ~ New for 2024 ~

**Featured Breed:** Cotswold will be the featured breed at the Festival this year and there will be special awards for Best White Cotswold, Best Natural Colored Cotswold and overall Champion Cotswold fleeces, thanks to the American Cotswold Record Association (ACRA).

**New Breed Specific Class:** For the first time there will be a breed specific class (Division III) for Gulf Coast Native fleeces!

**The Silent Auction** will include the five fleeces receiving the Maryland Shepherds Cup Award.

**Fleece Entry Options:** All fleeces must be for sale.

**Show & Sale** (\$7 per fleece): Fleeces entered in competition to be judged and eligible for awards, and also consigned for sale (Divisions I, II and III).

**Sale Only** (\$4 per fleece): Fleeces consigned for sale but not judged or eligible for awards (Divisions I & II only).

**Maryland Shepherds Cup:** Award for the best set of 5 handspinning fleeces from an individual Maryland shepherd/flock. Each fleece must be individually entered for Show & Sale in the appropriate Divisions and Classes. Only one entry (of 5 fleeces) per shepherd/flock. No additional entry fee.

## Fleece Standards

- 1) Producers are urged to be selective in choosing fleeces to enter.
- 2) Fleeces must be from the current (2023-2024) wool clip and represent no more than 18 months growth.
- 3) Maximum of 7 fleeces per exhibitor. The same fleece may not be entered in more than one class or division.
- 4) Whole fleeces only (no half or partial fleeces).
- 5) Each fleece must be skirted to ensure it is clean, dry, as free as possible of contaminants (e.g., vegetative matter (VM), chaff, burrs, manure tags & second cuts, etc.).
- 6) Minimum staple length of 2 inches. Note that 3 inches and above is preferred by most hand-spinners (as appropriate to breed type).
- 7) The Committee reserves the right to reject any fleeces not meeting standards (e.g., excessive dirt or VM, fleeces with active lice, excessively short fleeces, cotted, wet or moldy fleeces, etc.). Entry fees will not be refunded for rejected fleeces.

## Entry Requirements

- 8) Fleeces must be in a clear, unmarked plastic bag that can be easily opened (no ties or knots).
- 9) Weights must be provided to the nearest quarter pound. The Committee reserves the right to re-weigh fleeces if entered weights are questionable.

- 10) Breed designation: Breed information on the entry forms should be designated in one of two ways:
  - a. For purebred single breed: Breed Name (e.g. Romney)
  - b. For crosses or mixes of more than one breed: Predominant Breed Name X (e.g., Romney X). Predominant Breed refers to the breed that is either the highest percentage breed in the cross OR the breed in the cross/mix whose qualities are most reflected in the individual fleece.

Additional details may be entered under the optional Fleece ID field and will print out on the tag that will be fastened to the bag.
- 11) Prices will be set by the producers. Producers are urged to be reasonable in the prices they set. A summary of the price ranges for different breeds and categories of fleeces entered last year is available on the Festival website and may provide useful guidance.
- 12) Entries must be RECEIVED no later than Thursday, April 25, 2024 accompanied by entry fee.
- 13) Entry fees are: \$4 per fleece consigned for Sale Only, and \$7 per fleece consigned for both Show and Sale.
- 14) Producers are responsible for entering their fleeces in the appropriate division and class. Judges may not re-classify fleeces once they are delivered.

### **Show & Sale Rules & Responsibilities**

- 15) Producers entering fleeces are responsible for picking up ribbons in the Fleece Show & Sale office anytime after 11:00 am on Saturday. Premiums will be mailed to winners with their fleece sales checks.
- 16) Producers are responsible for picking up unsold fleeces (see schedule). Any abandoned fleeces will become the property of MSBA.
- 17) The commission on sales will be 10% for MSBA members (current as of April 25, 2024) and 20% for non-members. If you wish to join MSBA (or update your membership), membership forms can be found via: [www.sheepandwool.org](http://www.sheepandwool.org) or [www.marylandsheepbreeders.org](http://www.marylandsheepbreeders.org).
- 18) The role of the Festival is to be a broker to make quality fleeces of all kinds available to spinners and other fiber artists and to provide a marketplace for wool producers.
- 19) MSBA will make every effort to display and care for the entered fleeces, but assumes no responsibility for damaged, lost, or stolen fleeces.

## **FLEECE SHOW & SALE DIVISIONS AND CLASSES**

### **DIVISION I - Natural Colored (non-white) Fleeces**

### **DIVISION II - White Fleeces**

All fleeces in Divisions I & II will be judged on suitability for handspinning.

### **Divisions I & II will each have classes A, B, C and D, as follows:**

- A. Fine:** Spinning Count 64s to 80s (17-22 microns) (e.g., Cormo, Merino, Rambouillet, etc.)
- B. Medium:** Spinning Count 50s to 62s (22-31 microns) (e.g., Cheviot, Columbia, Corriedale, Dorset, Montadale, Tunis, etc.)
  - B1. Down-Type Medium wool Show & Sale entries will be separated out for judging** (e.g., Southdown, Suffolk, Hampshire, Shropshire, Dorset, Cheviot, Tunis, Clun Forest, etc.).
- C. Long:** Spinning Count 36s to 48s (31-40+ microns) (e.g., Border Leicester, Coopworth, Cotswold, Lincoln, Romney, Wensleydale, etc.)
- D. Primitive/Double-Coated:** (e.g., Icelandic, Karakul, Navajo-Churro, Scottish Blackface, Shetland, etc.)

**Premiums for each class:** 1st - \$20 2nd - \$15 3rd - \$12 4th - \$10

### **DIVISION III - Breed Class Fleeces**

Judging will be based on breed standards and suitability for handspinning.  
Div. III fleeces must be for Show and Sale (no Sale-Only entries).

**Premiums for each class:** 1st - \$20 2nd - \$15

### **2024 Breed-specific Classes:**

Blue-Faced Leicester	Gotland	Rambouillet
Border Leicester	Gulf Coast Native	Romeldale
Coopworth	Jacob	Romney
Cormo	Karakul	Shetland
Corriedale	Leicester Longwool	Valais Blacknose
Cotswold	Lincoln	
Finnsheep	Merino	

**Silent Auction** Selected Special Fleece Show Award winners (designated below by \*) will be placed on a separate table following judging and will be available for silent auction bids from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday. The starting prices will be the producer's asking prices. Bidding will close at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, and these fleeces may be picked up by the winning bidders after 3:30 p.m.

### **Schedule**

- Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Fleeces accepted
- Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Judging of show fleeces
- Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Fleeces for sale
- Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Silent auction for Special Award fleeces
- Saturday, 12:00 p.m (approx.) – Judges discuss show fleece placings
- Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Fleeces for sale
- Sunday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Producers pick-up unsold fleeces

#### **SPECIAL FLEECE SHOW AWARDS**

- **\*Grand Champion Fleece - \$100 and Rosette**
- **\*Champion Fleece, each Division - \$50 and Rosette**
- **\*The Pat Brown Memorial Award: Best Maryland Fleece - \$25 & Cup**
- **\*The Tyson Creamer Memorial Award: Best 4-H Fleece - \$25**
  - **Best Uncoated Fleece - \$25**
- **\*Maryland Shepherds Cup - \$100**

#### **2024 Sponsored Awards:**

- **Nat'l Blue Faced Leicester Union Award for Highest Placing BFL Fleece - \$50**
- **Champion Leicester Longwool Fleece (sponsored by Budding Creek Farm) - \$50**
- **Best Leicester Longwool Natural Colored Fleece (sponsored by The Ross Farm) - \$25**
- **Best Leicester Longwool White Fleece (sponsored by Underhill Farm) - \$25**
  - **\*ARCA Champion Cotswold Fleece (\$50)**
  - **ARCA/BCR Best Natural Colored Cotswold Fleece (\$25)**
  - **ARCA Best White Cotswold Fleece (\$25)**