

Sheep field day scheduled for Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Something new has been added to the annual State Sheep Field Day to be held June 4 at The Pennsylvania State University.

The "something new" is a Performance Tested Ram Sale, reports Lancaster County Extension agent Max Smith. Approximately 35 yearling rams that have been on feed test since January will be offered for sale as the final event in the day's program.

The Field Day program will have something for everyone. The morning

program, starting at 10 a.m., will be divided into two sections. One section, held at the Beef-Sheep Center, will feature a progress report on the Finnsheep Project, comparing production of Finn-cross ewes with more conventional mutton type sheep. This will be followed by a discussion of records, recordkeeping and the development and use of an index. The final event in the Sheep Center program will be a discussion and observation of an electric fence for sheep.

The other section,

scheduled at the Meats Laboratory, will start with a workshop on the management of orphan lambs. This will be followed at 11 a.m. with a demonstration on lamb cooking and film. "Lamb - the Versatile Meat."

Lunch will be served at the Meats Lab at 12 noon.

Following lunch, one phase of the program will continue at the Meats Lab. Mrs. Janice Bates, of Washington County, and her 9-year-old daughter, both dressed in colonial costume, will demonstrate spinning and natural dyeing of wool. This will be from 1 to 2 p.m.

The performance Tested Ram Sale will be held at the Meat Animal Evaluation

center at 2 p.m. The top end of the 41 rams on test will be offered at auction. These rams have performed well and should be of benefit to most any sheep flock in the state. Just before the sale there will be a discussion of the value and use of performance tested rams.

Bill McClure has worked very closely with the Virginia Ram Performance Testing Program and has been asked to discuss this topic.

The field day is sponsored jointly by the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association and the animal science section of Penn State.

The careful selection of a

new stud ram is a very important part of overall flock management. In fact it is probably the most important single factor when determining what will happen to the genetic potential of your flock, according to Robert Kimble, director of the Pennsylvania Meat Animal Evaluation Center.

Too many people evaluate the true worth of a ram by what he costs, or what his pedigree is, or what he has won at the shows, rather than on his performance.

Remember, says Kimble, that approximately 87 per cent of the genetic make-up of a lamb comes from the last three generations of rams used. That is why the

old saying that pedigrees tell you what an animal should be, shows tell you what an animal appears to be and performance tells you what an animal is, becomes so important.

There will be individual performance records available on all rams selling in Pennsylvania's First Performance Tested Ram Sale.

The Meat Animal Evaluation Center's programs are sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in cooperation with The Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association.

Kantner moves up in Extension ranks

SCHUYKILL HAVEN, Pa. - David L. Kantner, Schuylkill County extension director on Penn State University's Cooperative Extension Service staff, has been promoted to assistant director of the Southern Allegheny Region, effective June 15.

Dr. Thomas B. King, Penn State associate dean for Extension, said that Kantner will supervise Extension programs in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties. He will be headquartered on the Penn State Altoona Campus.

He succeeds Assistant Director Leland H. Bull, who retired January 1, 1977. Schuylkill County Ex-



David L. Kantner

assistant Bucks County Extension agent.

In Schuylkill County, he developed in-depth educational programs in dairy, livestock, and farm management. Under his leadership, enrollment in 4-H programs have grown from 700 members in 1972 to over 2300 in 1976.

He assisted in the establishment of the first Extension county community resource development agent position in Pennsylvania and developed the position of agricultural assistant in Schuylkill County to work in the areas of home grounds management, youth gardening, and small and part time farming.

Kantner recently received a Public Affairs Leadership Fellowship supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. He studied economics, sociology, government, and communications as they relate to analyzing social and economic problems in rural areas.

The new assistant director served as chairman of the Southeastern Pennsylvania 4-H Leaders Forum, 4-H District Horse Show, and Regional 4-H Lamb and Sheep Shows. He also is a director of the Pennsylvania Livestock Association.



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