

# Shorthorn youth conference to be in Virginia

OMAHA, Neb. — Youth '79 is the theme for the 12th Annual National Shorthorn Youth Conference to be held in Virginia, June 15-17, according to Alan K. Sears, junior activities director for

the American Shorthorn Association.

Sears said over 100 youth delegates and conference participants from across the United States and Canada will be headquartered for

business sessions and national committee meetings at the Sheraton Inn in Fredericksburg, Va. Additional activities are scheduled at Windholme Farm, owned by Harry T.

Peters, Jr., of Orange, Va., Sears said.

Rex Tribbett, Linden, In., president of the American Junior Shorthorn Association said that Saturday activities scheduled at the nationally

known Windholme Farm would include a judging clinic, the national showmanship finals and a farm tour. Saturday's activities will close with an evening barbeque and social sponsored by the Virginia Shorthorn firm, he said.

The National Shorthorn Youth Conference, Tribbett said, offers the opportunity for young Shorthorn cattlemen to meet and exchange ideas on cattle breeding, raising and promotion. In addition, Tribbett said Conference participants have the opportunity to view an outstanding Shorthorn/Polled Shorthorn herd under excellent management and tours of historical spots in this eastern setting are possible.

Other program highlights will be the Saturday morning featured speaker Dr. L. Eugene Byers, Loudonville, Oh., past president of the American Shorthorn Association. The election of new officers and directors for the group will occur during the closing business session on June 17.

State groups will be in competition throughout the Conference in the various contests that also include scrapbook content and presentation, public

speaking, mottoes and a promotional contest. The promotional contest, started in 1978, will provide State Junior Shorthorn Associations with the option of presenting a skit, radio or television commercial or a newspaper/magazine advertisement. This approach to promoting Shorthorns/Polled Shorthorns and the beef cattle industry in general, Sears said, is judged on the basis of originality, aggressiveness and degree of success in communication.

The presentation of the Outstanding Club Award based on the accumulation of points earned by the states during the three day competition will be another highlight of the closing session.

The American Junior Shorthorn Association, organized in 1967, encompasses 49 states and Canada with nearly 3,000 active members, ages nine to 21. Members join together through local and state participation in activities that grow into a national movement, Sears said, to promote the Shorthorn/Polled Shorthorn breed of cattle and to contribute to the development of youth and the beef cattle industry in general.

## Md. sheep producers enjoy economic turn-around

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — When the first statewide Sheep and Wool Crafts Festival was held five years ago at the Carroll county agricultural center in Westminster, the Maryland sheep industry was approaching its low point of the twentieth century in animal numbers and total shorn wool production. The bottom actually came the next year — in 1975.

But a resolute, small band of loyal supporters refused to quit; the festival kept going, and the economic situation has turned around for sheep and wool producers in the Old Line State.

Preliminary statistics from the federal-state Maryland Crop Reporting Service indicate that all-time highs were set during 1978 on average price per pound for both sheep and lambs sent to market in Maryland.

And the average price per pound for wool last year in the state was second only to the astronomical level set in 1951 as a psychological result of the Korean War.

Those record-breaking 1978 prices included an average of \$15.80 per 100 pounds for mature sheep and \$56.70 per 100 pounds for lambs. (Average price for 34 lambs sold at the 1978 Maryland State Fair was \$81 per cwt.)

This brought gross income from slaughter sheep and lambs in Maryland last year to \$565,000 — the highest since 1958, when more than twice as many animals were marketed.

The average wool price last year in Maryland was 75 cents per pound. This compares with the all-time high of 91 cents per pound in 1951.

Total value of wool production last year in the state was \$98,000. It is the largest figure since 1961, when the comparable figure was \$99,000. However, there were 31,000 sheep shorn in 1961, compared with only 18,000 last year.

The all-time high for Maryland wool production occurred in 1918, according to records of the Crop Reporting Service. There were 82,000 sheep shorn that

year, and the total value of their wool amounted to \$328,000. Average price was 69 cents per pound.

Mr. Emory C. Leffel, Extension sheep production specialist at the University of Maryland in College Park, is not convinced yet that the U.S. sheep industry has experienced — or will experience — the turn-around now evident in Maryland and other Eastern states. For one thing, Eastern flocks still account for only a small part of the national picture.

A determining factor, Dr. Leffel says, will be success or failure of the current "Polypay" breeding program being conducted by research workers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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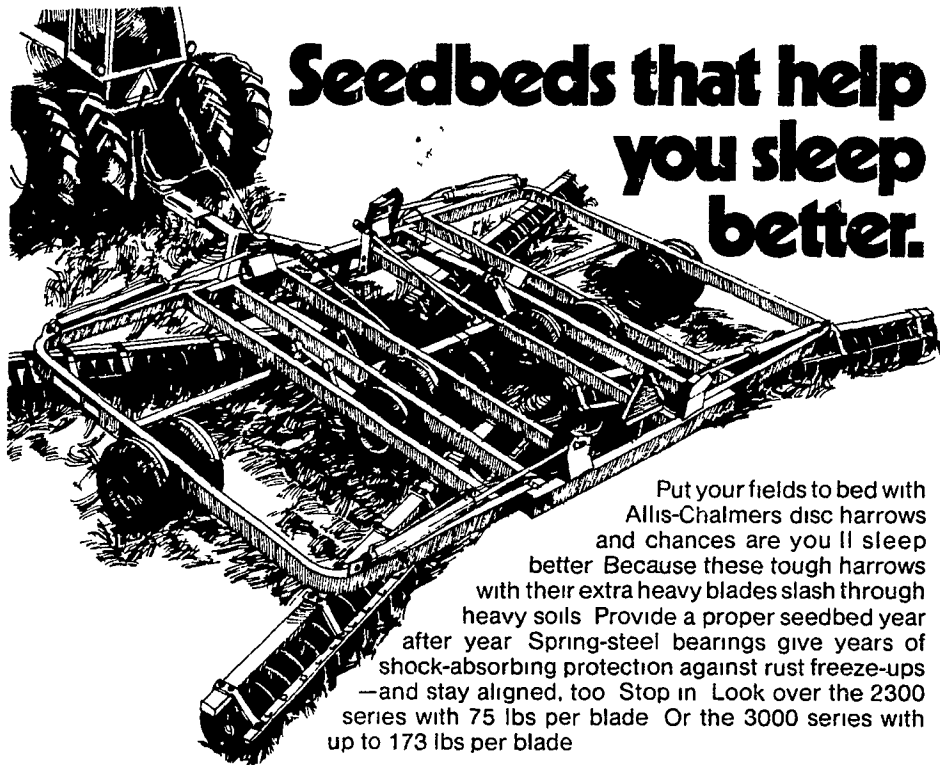
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