

Am. Sheep Producers approve promotion plans

DENVER, Colo. — Unity was the theme of the 31st Annual Meeting of the American Sheep Producers Council Oct. 16-18 in Denver.

Ninety-eight directors and delegates, representing the nation's 120,000 sheep producers, gathered for the event. Besides electing new officers, the sheepmen gave preliminary approval to a \$4.85 million budget and plan of work for the 1985-86 fiscal year.

"The next couple of years will be very challenging for us," ASPC President P.J. Cook of Belle Fourche, S.D., said in opening

remarks. Since weather has taken its toll and we've lost sheep numbers, we're going to be hard pressed to defend our market share.

"Lamb consumption will decline next year, and American wool consumption will also decline, simply because of declining production. So, we'll have to be more aggressive than ever to maintain good demand for our products

"We'll have tough competition from imported products, and it will take our best efforts—our united efforts—to deal with these

challenges"

Cook also encouraged more cooperative action among the three national sheep organizations

"The ASPC Strategic Planning Committee proposed that the National Wool Growers Association, National Lamb Feeders Association and ASPC work regularly and closely as a sheep industry coordinating council to address issues of concern to the total sheep industry," he said "This is the one area that we have not really fulfilled. We do

communicate, we do work together; but there are even greater opportunities for us to support each other. We all need to look for ways to pull this industry together"

The three ASPC officers were unanimously reelected Cook as president, Tim Indart of Clovis, Calif., as vice president; and Edgar Olson of Fosston, Minn., as secretary/treasurer

The Executive Committee selected Sonny Watts of Pinon, N.M., to chair the Wool Advisory

Committee, and Maurice Guerry of Buhl, Idaho, was chosen as the new Lamb Advisory Committee chairman

The 1985-86 plan of work, scheduled to go into effect July 1, 1985, stresses a regional marketing approach, with programs designed for each level of the lamb and wool industries. Producer involvement is also emphasized, with more than \$170,000 earmarked for a matching funds program which supports producer initiated promotion projects

Md. Sheep and Wool Festival scheduled

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — A unique opportunity to show, sell or buy wool sheep will be afforded sheep breeders at the 12th annual Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival May 4 and 5, 1985, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md. Billed as the "sale with a difference", wool sheep will be offered in three categories — purebred Romney, white wool sheep and natural colored sheep. In the latter two divisions, registered sheep may be included along with crossbreds, which will allow breeders of long wool sheep breeds other than Romney to participate. Sheep must have a 2-inch minimum fleece length.

White wool sheep will show at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at Romneys at 2:30 p.m. the same day. Natural colored sheep will take the ring at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, May 5, with the sale of all sheep

scheduled for 2:30 p.m. the same day.

Sheep will be divided into three divisions by wool grade: fine, medium and long. All animals offered for sale must be entered in the show. Entry fee for each show will be \$4 per animal. If the sheep is to be sold, an additional fee of \$10 will be required. Standard health requirements will apply. Entries are due March 15. A catalog will be prepared

The judge will place the animals in blue, red and white categories. Only blue placing rams will sell, while both blue and red ewes will be offered.

Additional information may be obtained from Bambi Prigel, sale chairman, 2015 Frazer Rd., Knoxville, Md. 21758 (301-834-9711), or Ernest E. Hall, sheep coordinator, 13140 Hiney Rd., Keymar, Md. 21757 (301-845-8744)





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