

# Sheep Management Tour

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Myers explained.

Commercial production of market lambs and purebreds was viewed at Corriedale Farm, Oley. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hollenbush, the herd of 50 Corriedales are paint branded according to lambing schedule and

culled according to lamb production. Pasture is used extensively in this operation and sheep are rotated on pasture with the use of electric fences.

Hollenbush has utilized a three strand steel wire fencing system which has proved very reliable with his herd. Natural bluegrass

and Dutch clover grow in the pastures on Corriedale Farm and "they thrive on it," according to Hollenbush.

"I had this fence up right aside of that clover field," he pointed out to visitors, "and they didn't touch it." Hollenbush likes to train the herd to a fence when they are wet and in wet weather for better electrical contact when they touch the fence.

"I like to crossbreed," Hollenbush continues about his market lamb practices. "You get more vigor and more growth," he states. A Dorset ram is currently being run with the herd and the Hollenbushes are breeding for fall lambing.

"I don't want to put the lambs on pasture," Hollenbush said, noting his reasons for fall lambing. "I want to finish them and get them out," he continues. Less worming problems are encountered this way, according to the owners.

Ewes are also paint branded according to when they lambed and are numbered consecutively. A strict deworming schedule is also followed and ewes and lambs are marked with red when they are dewormed. Deworming with thiabendazole and tramisol, alternating drugs four times a year, is recommended by the Hollenbushes in their herd.

Corriedale Farm has also utilized a bank barn that the Hollenbushes have opened up to provide better ventilation and less health problems to their herd. "If I have an open barn accessible to the sheep in the summertime, they want to come into the barn and in the winter they want to stay out," Hollenbush revealed.

He also concluded, "By crossbreeding, I can get an excellent market lamb from these wool-bred sheep.

It was only fitting to conclude the day long tour with a view of an operation where sheep are maintained for their fine wool and the wool is harvested and processed in an on-farm shop, Ewesful Spinings, the sheep farm and wool store of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wade. The Wade's maintain over 60 head of Romney, Scottish-Black Face, Lincoln and Jacob's sheep. Mostly a spinner's flock, the Wade herd featured fine wool and careful processing towards a high quality finished product.

"We've taken the benefits of the Scottish Black Face and crossed it with the Jacob's who have a softer wool, for a finer-type of wool," stated Marvin Wade conducting the visitors through his facilities. While he takes care of the housing and feeding of the large herd, Mrs. Wade oversees the processing of the wool in her expansive shop.

The shop includes a store to buy the finished yarns and bats produced from the wool, a processing room where the fleece is washed, carded, and roved, and

a spinning room where wool is further processed or weaved into various items.

"I am a strong proponent of natural colors," Mrs. Wade told the visitors as she explained the different processes towards a finished product. Demonstrations were given on washing a fleece, carding the dry wool and passing the wool through the roving machine.

Vegetation was again discussed and wool growers were repeatedly advised to manage their herds so that a minimum amount of matter can fall into the wool on their sheep. In pasture feed troughs and low hay racks where sheep could climb on to feed are used at Ewesful Spinings to keep vegetation at a minimum.

The tour was sponsored by the Berks County Extension Service and informational booklets covering the topics of the tour and the demonstrations were provided to each participant. The tour is conducted every three to four years to keep current on the latest techniques and profitable practices of sheep and wool growers.



"I always thought that there must be a better, easier way to shear sheep," stated Elmer Petersheim. Because of this, he has researched pictures of a shearing table from Australia and is currently building a similar model on his farm.

## Northumberland County Sheep & Wool Growers

The Northumberland County Sheep and Wool Growers Association held their annual dinner meeting Oct. 2 at the United Church of Christ, Selinsgrove.

The group elected three new directors. They are: Carl Everett, Harvey Brown and Archie Hilkert. They will serve with current directors Kenneth Keefer, Fred Styer, Lynn Laudenslager, Bruce Bassett, Ira Geise and John Gent.

Guest speaker James Sheeder, president of the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association, talked about a tour to the Pipestone Lambing Project in Minnesota this spring.

Wool princess Pattie Snook discussed the nutritional value of lamb.

The next meeting will be held Dec. 11 at Farmers Best Restaurant in Milton.

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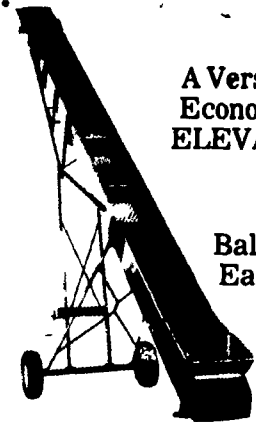
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