

Cheviot, Polypay Top Keystone Stud Ram And Ewe Show/Sale

by Mary Maxwell
Centre Co. Correspondent
UNIVERSITY PARK—A large crowd of buyers from all over the country was attracted to the 350 stud rams and ewes from equally diverse regions at the Keystone Show and Sale. The two events were part of the Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Festival held last weekend at the Penn State Ag Arena.

A Cheviot yearling ram, owned by Martin Brothers, Willard, OH, won the title of supreme ram over ram champions from the other 13 breeds. The supreme ewe was exhibited by Wilson's Hampshires, Rural Retreat, VA. Buster Wilson also took home the Milton Morgan Trophy as champion consignor.

Judges for the day-long show were Tim Barnes, Radnor, OH, and David Green, White Hall, MD.

On Saturday the animals went through the arena again, this time in front of auctioneers Hobart and Wayne Farthing.

A champion Polypay brought the highest-selling price. Theresa Moor of Glen Easton, W.VA, paid \$1000 for the fall ram consigned by Rickate Livestock Co., Burlington, CO.

The Champion Suffolk ram, consigned by Larry Orwick of McComb, OH, was the second-high selling animal. The spring ram was bought by Robert Lipski, Suffield, CN, for \$900.

Another Suffolk spring ram brought the third highest price.

Pine Haven Farm, Newville, PA, paid \$775 for the animal consigned by Zigler's Suffolks, Wytheville, VA.

A Hampshire yearling was fourth-highest. Harmann's Hamps received \$700 for the ewe bought by Stephen Wolgast, Cornell, NY.

Gross sales for the day were \$80,205, with ewe prices particularly good.

Bob Calvert, Mercer was sale manager. He was assisted by Harold and David Harpster, Ken Kark, Ron Miller and Bill MacCauley.

Show results are listed below:

Cheviot:

Champion Ram-Martin Brothers, Willard, OH, R Champion Ram-Erdenheim Farm, Lafayette Hill, PA, Champion Ewe-Erdenheim Farm, Lafayette Hill, PA, R Champion Ewe-Erdenheim Farm

Columbia:

C Ram-Charles Clouser & Daus, Nova, OH, R Ram-Dirk Wise, Spring Mills, PA, C Ewe-R E Shaffer & Son, Fredericktown, OH; R Ewe-R E Shaffer & Son.

Corriedale:

C Ram-L.D Cook & Sons, New London, OH; R Ram-Tucker Family Corriedales, Shiloh, OH; C Ewe-L.D Cook & Sons, New London, OH, R Ewe-L D Cook & Sons.

Horned Dorset:

C Ram-Wm. & Neva Johnston III, Grove City, PA; R Ram-Michael H Thompson Family, Greenville, OH, C Ewe-Poverty Point Farm, Mars, PA, R Ewe-James Luster, Greenville, OH

Polled Dorset:

C Ram-Peter & Brenda LeVan, Bellefonte, PA, R Ram-Clear View Acres, York, PA; C Ewe-Lee & Louise Wagner, Easton, PA; R Ewe-Ovine Alley Dorsets, Palmyra, PA

Montdale:

C Ram-Alfred & Katherine Tyler, Glen Arm, MD, R Ram-R.E Shaffer & Son, Fredericktown, OH; C Ewe-Alfred & Katherine Tyler, Glen Arm, MD; R Ewe-Alfred & Katherine Tyler

Merino:

C Ram-Kenrich & Kathy Smith, Jeromesville, OH, R Ram-Kennck & Kathy Smith; C Ewe-Kennck & Kathy Smith, Jeromesville, OH, R Ewe-Kenrich & Kathy Smith

Oxford:

C Ram-Gerald Thoma, Kensington, OH, C Ewe-Radley & Jackie Stanley, Leete, IN, R Ewe-Radley & Jackie Stanley.

Hampshire:

C Ram-Richard Fields, Dover Foxcroft, MA, R Ram-Wilson's Hampshires, Rural Retreat, VA, C Ewe-Wilson's Hampshires, Rural Retreat, VA, R Ewe-John C Nordin, Russell, PA

Polypay:

C Ram-Rickate Livestock Co., Burlington, CO, R Ram-Jim Williams, Henderson, KY, C Ewe-Jim Williams, Henderson, KY, R Ewe-James T Sheeder, Somerset, PA

Rambouillet:

C Ram-Doug Kirkpatrick & Family, Ashland, OH; R Ram-Ken Scott, Pulaske, PA; C Ewe-Steve & Marjie Heffelfinger, Jeromesville, OH; R Ewe-Camelot Farms, Belfast, MA

Shropshire:

C Ram-Joseph L. Lavieri, Winsted, CN; R Ram-Daniel H Riddick, Richmond, VT; C Ewe-Peter D'Ambra, Skowhegan, MA; R Ewe-J.W. Percival, Painesville, OH.

Southdown:

C Ram-Shauna Jones, Taxewell, VA, R Ram-David & Mary Merry, Seymour, IN, C Ewe-Shauna Jones, Taxewell, VA; R Ewe-Steve Kwisnek, Clarksburg, PA

Suffolk:

C Ram-Larry Orwick, McComb, OH, R Ram-James Hefner, Lima, OH, C Ewe-James Hefner, Lima, OH, R Ewe-Harry Jones, Taxewell, VA



Consignors of the supreme champion ram at the Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Show are (left) Matt and Budd Martin, Willard, OH, with their yearling Cheviot. Buster Wilson (right) and Greg Harmon of Wilson's Hampshires, Rural Retreat, VA, had Supreme ewe.

Flock Forum

by
Clair Engle

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Do Teaser Rams Really Work?

Like to lamb in half the time? This might sound too good to be true, yet studies reveal that the influence of a teaser ram three weeks prior to the normal breeding season will "tease" the ewes through a "silent" heat period and stimulate approximately 13 to 17 percent more ewes to breed on the first estrus following the teasing period.

Teaser rams can be used to synchronize ewes naturally. Although this method is not quite as effective as hormone therapy, labor requirements and expenses are not as high. Recent research in Australia and New Zealand shows that pheromones produced by the ram stimulate the advancement of the breeding season by two to three weeks and synchronize the ewes. The rams' pheromones have been reported to affect yearling ewes, as well as older ewes.

Pheromones are specialized hormones, which are released by the ram and smelled by the ewe. The pheromones are found in the wool and wax that accumulates around the ram's eyes. Research has also shown that visual or physical contact with the ram is not necessary to stimulate the ewes. In an experiment conducted in New Zealand, wool from a Dorset ram was rubbed on the muzzle of a group of ewes three times a day for two days. Forty-eight percent of the ewes were stimulated to come into estrus, compared to the 50 percent that responded when rams were physically placed with them.

A study conducted at the University of California's Hopland Field Station clearly showed that teaser rams can be effectively used to synchronize ewes. Two groups of ewes were studied. One group was exposed to teaser rams before breeding, while the second group was isolated from rams until breeding started on August 1. Forty-four percent of the ewes exposed to teaser rams lambed in

the first seven days of lambing, while only 11 percent of the ewes that had not been exposed to teaser rams lambed during the same period. Similar results have been observed at the University of Wyoming Archer Sub-Station. When teaser rams were placed with the ewes three weeks prior to breeding, eighty-four percent of the flock lambed during the first 17 days of lambing, with the vast majority of those ewes lambing within a week.

It has been reported that different breeds of rams may differ in their ability to stimulate ewes. In a New Zealand experiment, when Dorset rams were used as teasers, 67 percent of the ewes were bred during the first two weeks of their breeding season, compared to 34 percent when Romney rams were used as teasers. However, in a trial conducted at the University of California, Davis, using Dorset and Suffolk rams as teasers, no significant difference was found in the ram's ability to stimulate ewe's onset of estrus during the first week of May.

Just how ram pheromones stimulate ewes is unknown, but it is known that within 10 minutes of the introduction of the ram or pheromones, ewes that are stimulated will start secreting hormones from their pituitary glands. These hormones cause the ewe to ovulate within three days. This ovulation is not accompanied by behavioral estrus and is referred to as a "silent heat." Upon ovulation, a corpus luteum (CL) forms on the ovary at the point where the egg or ovum was ovulated. Approximately 30 to 40 percent of the time, the CL functions for a normal period of time. In this case, the ewe will exhibit a normal behavioral estrus in 18 to 20 days after the teaser ram was first placed in with the ewes.

However, in the remaining 60 to 70 percent of the ewes, the CL will

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Butler Teams Clip Competition In Sheep-To-Shawl

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UNIVERSITY PARK—Teenagers carding, spinning and weaving held spectators spell bound during the Junior Sheep to Shawl contest at the recently held Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Festival. The teams of six members had up to three hours to make a 78-inch shawl.

This year's winners, a team from Butler composed of Becca Merbeck, Kristen Graham, Lisa Graham, Drew Pierce, Doug Gra-

ham and Bonnie Pierce and calling themselves The Cottontail Twisters, finished in two hours. The second-place team, also from Butler, finished 45 minutes later. This group, The Fuzzy-Bunny Bobbins, was made up of members Shelley Clark, Michele Graham, Peggy Fleming, Kathy Park and Kerry and Shayna Klingensmith.

Both teams are coached by Audrey Thomas. "We started using Angora fur, hence the rabbit-like team names, and now use wool, as well," says Mrs. Thomas. "The groups give demonstrations

at the State Farm Show, plus local fairs and festivals." The teens will go out to Indiana for its state competition later this year. "The competition will be very tough there," says the group's coach, "but it will be a good experience and fun."

The first-place team won \$75, with the second-place team winning \$65. Helen Trawitz bought the top-placing shawl for \$65 and Dr. Clair Engle paid the same price for the second-place piece.

The Lamb and Wool Festival provided opportunity for persons with other skills to display them, as well.

Gina Addison, New Alexandria, won the Hand Spun single and 2-ply woolen yarn division and Marcia Beppler received a blue ribbon for her hand-knit sweater. Jean Kimel, Somerset, received a first-place award in the accessories division for her wool pillow. Janet Poulock, Unadilla, NY, won a blue ribbon on her small, handcrafted wool sheep.

In the photo competition Jeffrey Calvert, Berlin, placed first in color and black-and-white photos. Leanne Calvert, Berlin, received a first-place rating in the art competition.

Fleeces were judged, with Wolly Hill Farm, Bridgeport, VT, receiving the grand champion rosette. The reserve champion ribbon went to Geoff and Sarah Ruppert, Union Bridge, MD.



Junior Sheep to Shawl contest winners were from Butler. The team included (left) Becca Merbeck, Kristen Graham, Lisa Graham, Drew Pierce, Doug Graham and Bonnie Pierce.

