

# MD Sheep Breeders Flock To Banquet

BY SHARON B. SCHUSTER  
Maryland Correspondent  
MARYLAND — Approximately 125 Maryland sheep breeders flocked to the 31st annual banquet meeting in Mt. Airy last Saturday evening. After a meal of roast leg of lamb prepared by president, Bill Christoffel, the members elected officers for the coming year.

Bill Christoffel will serve another term as president of the Maryland Sheep Breeders' Association. Elected as vice president was Larry Fisher. Martin Hamilton will serve as treasurer, and Peggy Howell, secretary. Directors for the Association are Martha Berger, Tyson Cramer, John Fleishell, Nancy Greene, Chris Cochran and Cindy Soth.

Christoffel said that the strength of the organization "is the tremendous amount of willingness to share. Whenever you want something done, you can call someone and they'll do it and do it well." He further congratulated the Maryland Lamb and Wool Queen, Susan Morris, who represented the association at fairs and promotional events around the state. Mary Streaker was recognized for her untiring commitment to organizing the annual Sheep and Wool Festival.

The members anxiously awaited the award of Shepherd of the Year, presented by the 1986 recipient, Duane Miller. Since this award was first started, the association has recognized twenty individuals for their contribution to the sheep industry. Harvey and Edith Miller of Damascus, Maryland, were awarded the crook and a plaque declaring them to be "Shepherds of the Year" for 1987. The Millers raise Shropshires on their Damascus farm.

Featured speaker of the evening was Nancy Ann Sayre. Sayre spent a year working at Halden Sheep



Nancy Sayre, featured speaker, told sheep breeders about her studies at a New Zealand sheep station where Booroola Merino ewes are known for multiple births of five or six lambs.

Station in New Zealand where the Booroola Merino sheep was developed. These sheep carry a dominant fertility gene for multiple births. The gene can be introduced to other breeds without changing the characteristic of the breed.

Photographs taken at Halden Station revealed a rugged but beautiful country with steep hills and picturesque coastlines. "In the shadow of every mountain are sheep, sheep, and more sheep," said Sayre. In a country where there are 10 million cattle, 70 million sheep and only 3 million people, Sayre said the focal point of the country's industry and research is in the sheep industry and the technology that accompanies it.

There are 90,000 sheep on the Halden Station. With ewes and lambs scattered over thousands of acres, and the nearest town 40 miles away, Sayre said "airplanes are a way of life there."

Halden Station is home to the Booroola Merino. Ewes were seen with as many as five and six lambs at their sides. "That's not a realistic goal," said Sayre. "We want to see ewes running with two lambs instead of one." Now that the Booroola Merino semen is available here in the U.S., Sayre said "the potential is here."

The Booroola Merino was first discovered in Australia in the early 1920's. The breed was sent to New Zealand for study and development where it now thrives and represents a promising breakthrough in the sheep industry of the world. The Booroola Merino is the only sheep in the world that has the ability to pass on one gene which increases fertility, to its progeny, without changing carcass weight, quality of wool or other characteristics of another breed.

## PA Brown Swiss Assn. Sets Meeting

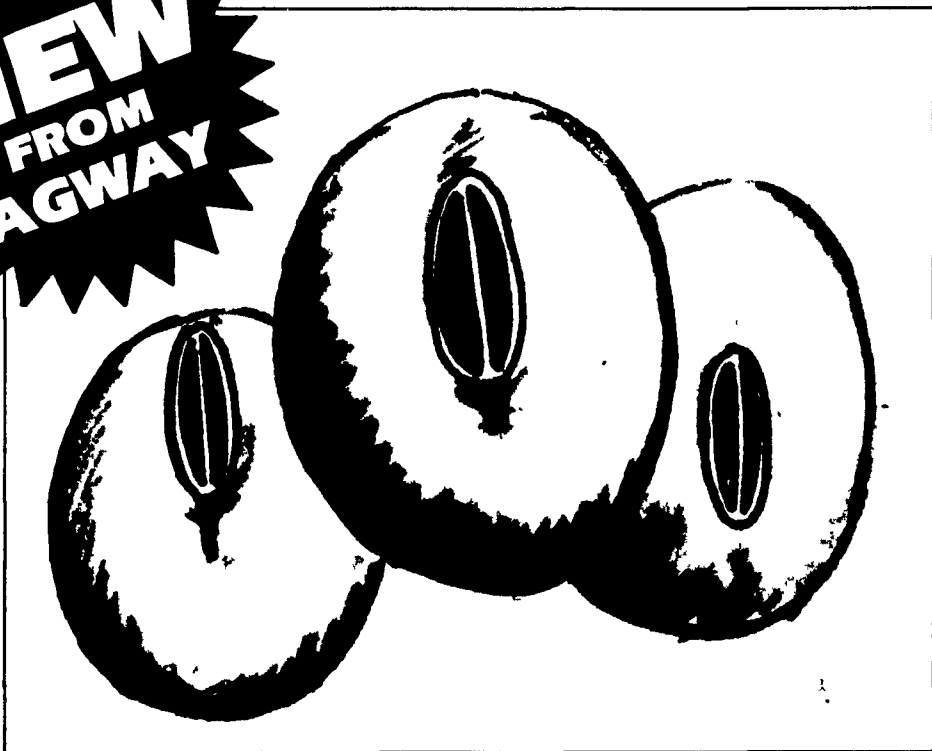
CARLISLE — The Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Breeders Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 1987 at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge on Route 11, Carlisle. Lunch will be at 11:15 a.m. and the meeting will start at 1:00 p.m.

All members are urged to attend and support their Association and elect their new officers.



The Coveted Shepherd of the Year award was given to Harvey and Edith Miller, center. Duane Miller, right, who was the 1986 recipient, holds the plaque he is presenting to the Millers. Couple in the foreground are unidentified club members.

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