

Livestock Ledger

By
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Extension Livestock Specialist

SUPPORTING THE SHEEP INDUSTRY
A Lancaster Farming headline two weeks ago, "Penn State Eliminates Sheep Programming," sure caught my attention and most likely caused a few doubletakes from sheep producers across the commonwealth.

According to the article, Penn State Cooperative Extension staff will be conducting sheep programs only in the western counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Beaver, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland. What was missing from the article was the fact that extension programs will also be conducted in Lancaster and York counties in southeast Pennsylvania.

During the process of reviewing the College Future Committee's recommendations, a strong case was presented to Penn State Cooperative Extension Administrators defending the need for sheep industry programming in both Lancaster and York counties. Consider that Lancaster County ranks third behind Washington and Greene in sheep numbers with 8,800 head. That's more lamb and wool than the combined western counties of Allegheny, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Forest, and Venango.

Consider also that the Lancaster Stockyards is the largest sheep marketing terminal in the eastern U.S. trading 66,054 head in 1993. Finally, consider the formation of the Lancaster Sheep and Wool Growers Association in 1986, an organization with educational

goals working together with Penn State Cooperative Extension to host two Keystone Shepherd's Symposiums, 35 educational meetings, and seven shearing schools with 129 graduates during the past eight years.

I write this article to reassure our local producers that Penn State Cooperative Extension will continue to provide sheep programming in the Lancaster and York counties. Shepherds throughout Pennsylvania may still phone their local county agent for sheep information, advice, and support. What may be missing in some counties will be planned programs and events. I hope that the many sheep associations throughout the state will remain active in their educational and promotional efforts.

Animal Housing Expo

Mark July 12 and 13 on your calendar now, as a reminder to attend Penn State's Animal Housing Expo at the Lebanon Fairgrounds. If you are a producer of pork, poultry, beef, or dairy products, a trip to this showcase of animal housing ideas, products, and tips may provide the direction you need in planning for building, expansion, or remodeling on your farm operation.

The show will feature more than 40 commercial exhibitors, expert speakers, educational dis-

plays, demonstrations, and new products. The expo will focus on proven, state-of-the-art housing systems, ventilation methods, safe animal handling, environmental concerns, and production efficiency.

Featured presentations this year include "Building Design for Rodent and Bird Control," "Fly Control in Confinement Housing," "Toold for Financial Planning," "Milking System Management," and "Functional Cattle Treatment Facilities."

A new aspect of the Expo will be Tuesday evening tours of new dairy and swine facilities followed by a pork barbecue at the fairgrounds.

Watch for details in the weeks to come!

Cattle Evaluation Workshop

Cattlemen are invited to participate in a workshop designed to improve knowledge and understanding of important aspects pertaining to the beef industry.

Scheduled for July 27 and 29, this two-day workshop will include live cattle grading by all participants, quality assurance tips, and advice on feeding for profit. Demonstrations at the packing plant will focus on beef that fits the box, hot fat trimming, injection site blemishes, and new grading proposals.

The live animal session will be held at New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland at 7 p.m. on July 27, where participants can compare their grading estimates with a panel of experts. The carcass aspect of the workshop will be held at 7 p.m. on July 29 at Stoltzfus Meats, Intercourse. During this program, actual carcass data can be compared with estimates, and participants will visualize the disadvantages of cattle that are too big, overly fat, or poorly managed.

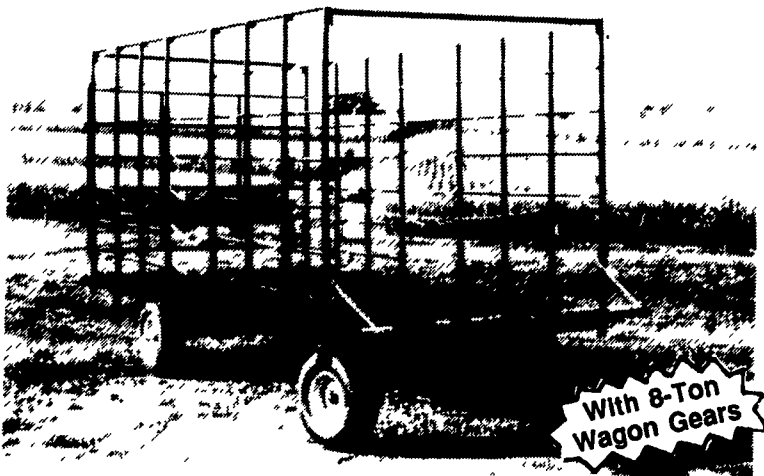
The workshop is being conducted by Penn State Cooperative Extension with support from the Pennsylvania Beef Council and animal health companies.

Jackpot Show in York
Livestock show enthusiasts should reserve Saturday, July 30 to participate in the Keystone National Rib Cookoff and Music Fest's Jackpot Show, featuring the supreme champion selection of barrows, steers, and wethers, at the York Fairgrounds.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association, the Jackpot Show is open to youth ages 8-19 (as of show day), with guaranteed jackpots totaling \$1,700. Included are guaranteed premiums from \$25 for first place to \$5 for fifth.

For more information or entry forms, contact Chester D. Hughes, show manager, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Room 1, Lancaster, PA 17601, (717) 394-6851 or Cathy Stewart, PLA Youth Committee Chairman, 555 Willow Street, Lebanon, PA 17046, (717) 274-6911.

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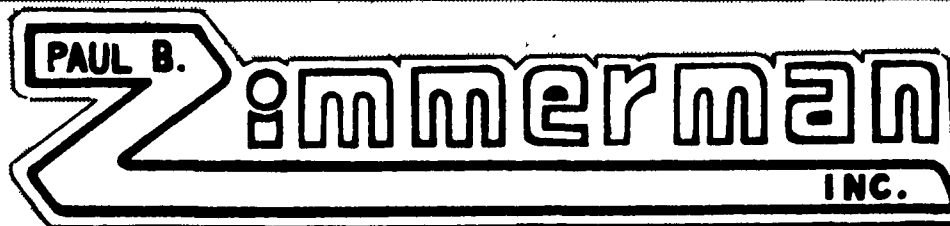
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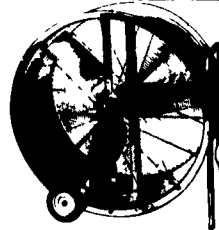
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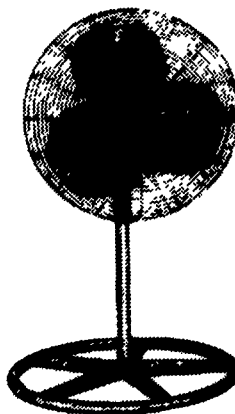
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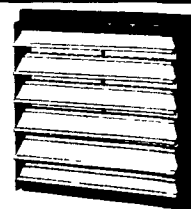
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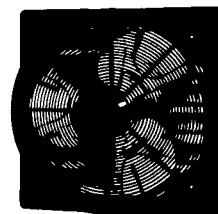
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