

New England To Host National Southdown Sale

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The 55th New England Sheep Sale is hosting the Jim Lightfoot National Southdown Sale this year here on July 18-19 at the newly completed Big E Agricultural Complex.

This is the first time the National Southdown Sale has been in New England. The sale will honor longtime area Southdown breeder Jim Lightfoot.

The New England Sale is sponsored by the New England Sheep & Wool Growers Association (NESWGA) and is held in conjunction with the Northeast Youth Sheep Show. The sale, to date, has well over 175 head entered representing many different breeds, with more than 50 head of Southdown sheep consigned.

Top breeders from all over the United States are bringing sheep to the sale. Post entries are always welcomed.

Thursday evening, July 17 at 6 p.m., the Northeast Southdown Breeders will be having a New England Style Clambake for Southdown breeders and friends. At this time Jim Lightfoot and his family will be recognized as the National Southdown Sale honoree. Each dinner will include a lobster, steamers, fish, sweet potato, white potato, sweet corn, bratwurst, saugys, drink and watermelon. Cost will be \$15 per dinner. Reservations must be made in advance by July 14 by contacting Claudette Choma at (860) 684-4315.

Things get started on Friday, July 18, at 9 a.m. with the showing of the sale sheep. The National Southdown Sale Show will be first followed by the other breeds showing alphabetically. Nancy Ferguson, Southdown and Hampshire breeder from Corvallis, Ore., will be placing the classes. At 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. that same day the NESWGA will put on a family barbecue that will feature grilled

Southdown lamb. Reservations must be made ahead for this event by contacting Claudette Choma, 216 Monson Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 or by calling her at (860) 684-4315 on or before Monday, July 14.

The barbecue was a great success last year as the food was good, the prices reasonable, and it had a casual, relaxing atmosphere. The cost of the barbecue will be \$8.50 for adults and \$5.50 for children. Also at 5 p.m. the New England Sheep & Wool Growers Association will hold its annual meeting in the Agricultural Complex.

At 7 p.m. Friday evening the Supreme Champion Selection Show for the sale will be held. The breed champions vie for top honors and a \$100 cash award that is presented to the supreme champion ram and supreme champion ewe of the New England Sale. Also at this time a Scotch Auction is held for raising funds for the NESWGA Scholarship Fund.

Several interesting items are donated, tickets sold, and drawings made. All proceeds go directly into the NESWGA Scholarship Fund that supports two college scholarships every year.

Immediately following the supreme selections an Ice Cream Social is scheduled. Sugarloaf Dorsets of Kingfield, Maine are providing the free ice cream and all the toppings for this event.

The New England Sheep sale will start at 9 a.m. with Dan Schlichter of Washington Court-house, Ohio calling the sale. The

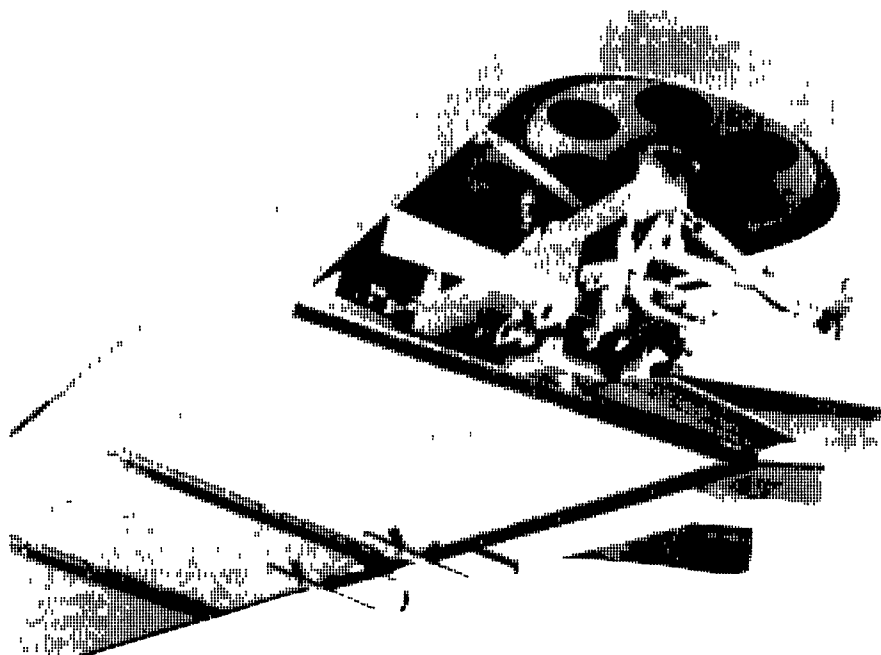
sale order will be as follows: Polled Dorsets, Montadales, Southdowns, Romneys, Corriedales, Natural Coloreds, Jacobs, Columbias, Cheviots, Hampshires, Suffolks, Oxford, Shropshires, and Tunis. Prior to the start of the sale buyer registration will take place and a buyer's raffle will be held. Sale credits of \$200 and \$100 will be raffled off to help buyers towards the purchases of their animals.

Immediately following the sheep auctions there will be a used sheep equipment auction. This event has grown since its incep-

tion a few years ago to where there is a lot of useful equipment being consigned. Any sheep-related item may be sold through the sale and consignments are taken up to early Saturday morning. The net proceeds from this auction go to the Northeast Youth Sheep Show to help sponsor its ever-growing youth show that is held the same weekend following the sales and into Sunday.

For more information on the activities and sale catalogs, contact Debra Hopkins, 1125 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, RI 02857, (401) 647-7281.

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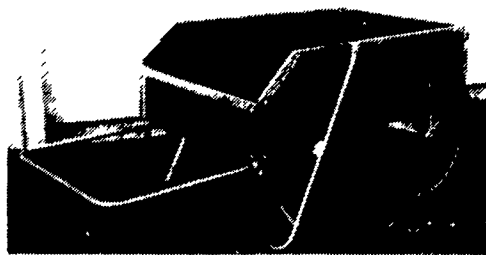


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