

New England Sheep Sale Entry Deadline April 15

NORTH SCITUATE, R.I. — The New England Sheep Sale will be held July 17-18 at the BIG E Fairgrounds in the Mallery Agriculture Complex in West Springfield, Mass.

The sale is open to all breeds of sheep, and entry fees are \$15 for ewes and \$20 for rams.

The entry deadline for the sale is April 15.

The number of sheep entered in the past sales averaged about 200 head.

Doris Powell of Rome, Pennsylvania will be judging the sale and Dan Schlichter of Washington Courthouse, Ohio will be the auctioneer.

Last year this sale posted a new record sale average of \$478 per head sold with a large number of sheep sold going to young sheep growers in the Northeast.

The New England Sheep & Wool Growers is the sponsor of

the sale. This will be the 56th sale as it has been an annual event since 1942.

The New England Sale has become one of the major purebred sheep sales in the United States as it attracts consignors and buyers from all over the nation. This sale has hosted several successful National Breed sales in the past and has been selected to host the National Dorset Sale in 1999!

For consignors the sale offers special cash jackpots for breed and supreme champions besides the low entry fees and the availability for all breeds to participate.

This is one of the most cost effective sales in the country to sell purebred sheep in as the 10 percent commission is not charged on the total price sold but only on the amount above \$150 on ewes and \$200 on rams.

There are several classes for lambs of different ages and a bred

ewe class. For the buyers the sale raffles off several special buyer credits for up to \$200.

The rams from each breed in this sale raffles off several special buyer credits for up to \$200.

The rams from each breed in this sale are offered for sale at one time, with the exception of the champion and reserve champion who will be auctioned off first individually, to make selection and bidding on the ram of the buyer's choice easier.

In conjunction with the sheep sale there is a used sheep equipment auction held. The auction has a \$10 entry fee per consignor for items that are to be prelisted in the sheep sale catalog.

Post entries are also welcome and there is no entry fees for these items. The sale commission from the equipment auction goes directly toward the Northeast Youth Sheep Show, which is also held the very same weekend at the BIG E fairgrounds.

For more information and/or entry forms contact Debra Hopkins, Sale Manager, 1125 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, RI 02857-1523. Telephone (401) 647-7281. Fax (401) 647-0576.

Benefits Of No-Till

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — Carlos Crovetto, a Chilean farmer who has increased his yields and improved his soils through no-till farming practices, spoke to a crowd of about 200 people at a seminar sponsored by the Keystone Soil & Water Conservation Society in cooperation with the Pocono RC&D and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service recently at the Dauphin County Agricultural Center.

Crovetto spoke about what a tremendous privilege is to be a farmer, with a responsibility to feed and clothe the world. In his mind, the land belongs to every person, insect and animal, and it is our duty to care for its future. Through his efforts in reclaiming gullies which were created by erosion many years ago, he has increased his farmable land area.

Using back-fill, animal waste and no-till, he has improved the soil humus, moisture content, and the fertilizer requirements of the soil — all without the benefits of cost-share. Using chemical treatment to control weeds, Crovetto

plants alternate crops directly into the previous stand. Harvest includes the broadcasting of leftover plant matter over the fields. "The grain is what I take now," said Crovetto. "The residue is what I give to the future. It is for the soil."

Crovetto is strong in his support of no-till and zealous in his love of the land. "We can replace everything else," he stated. "There will never be any more soil."

Crovetto urged the farmers that were present — "You can do it." He reminded them to seek help and information from the Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation districts, and agronomists.

"We go to the moon. That is important work," Crovetto stated. "But caring for the soil is even more important."

For more information on no-till or other soil conservation or improvement practices, contact your local Natural Conservation Service or conservation district office.

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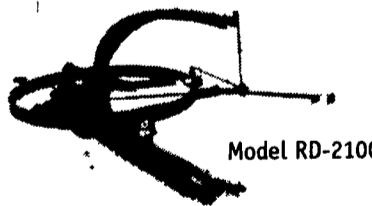
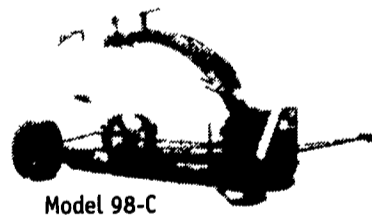
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