

Maryland Sheep, Wool Festival Announces Live Animal, Carcass Contest Results

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — One of the lesser known contests at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, conducted recently in West Friendship, is the Live Animal and Carcass Contest.

The Live Animal and Carcass Contest recognizes producers of superior meat-type lambs and helps producers to correlate live animal traits (subjective) with carcass traits (objective).

After being evaluated on the hoof, the lambs are processed at Mt. Airy Locker and carcass measurements are taken. Contest results are based 30 percent on live placing and 70 percent on carcass measurements.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Live Animal and Carcass Contest was won by Beverly and Sherman Pearsall from Thurmont, Maryland.

Their champion lamb, second place on-hoof, was a crossbred Texel ram lamb weighing 80 pounds. The lamb dressed out 46 pounds (58 percent) and had a 3.2 square inch loin eye (lamb chop), the largest in the class. The lamb had only 0.17 inches of back fat.

The Texel breed is known for its extreme muscling in the leg and loin regions. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is currently conducting a study comparing Suffolk, Dorper, and Texel-sired lambs (bred to Katahdin hair sheep ewes).

The reserve champion lamb was a Dorset ram lamb exhibited



The Live Animal and Carcass Contest was won by Beverly and Sherman Pearsall from Thurmont, Maryland. Their champion lamb, second place on-hoof, was a crossbred Texel ram lamb weighing 80 pounds.

by second year exhibitors, Bill and Katie Powers from Townsend, Delaware.

Their 102 pound lamb placed first on-the-hoof and had the highest scoring leg in the class (15/high prime), along with only 0.18 inches of back fat.

It is not unusual for Dorset lambs to do well in a carcass contest. In addition to being excellent mother sheep, Dorset-sired lambs are thickly muscled and often the "preferred" type of lamb in markets that prefer light weight (less than 100 pounds) lambs, the predominant market

in the Eastern U.S.

Karrin Mullen served as the live animal judge. The carcass judging was done by Dr. John Buric and Martin O'Connor, of the USDA Ag Marketing Service.

Appreciation is expressed to the judges, as well as Mt. Airy Locker, for their long-time support of the contest.

For information about the Live Animal and Carcass Contest or how to evaluate carcass traits in live lambs or goats, contact the contest chair Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 ext. 343 or sschoen@umd.edu.

Veal Retail Guide Is A National Winner

Wins Ag Marketing Honor In San Diego

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — The American Veal Association (AVA), on behalf of the Cattlemen's Beef Board, won a coveted Best of National Ag-Marketing Association (NAMA) award at the NAMA annual meeting in San Diego, April 16.

The Best of NAMA awards honor the best in agricultural marketing communications from across the country. "How to Answer Your Customers Questions About Veal" retail guide advanced to national competition after garnering first place in the public affairs/issues management category at the Region VI 2002 Best of NAMA contest.

"We're ecstatic about our Best of NAMA win," said Carrie Bomgardner, AVA. "Our allied industry partners have been pleased with this communication piece and its ability to succinctly address common misconceptions

about the veal industry; recognition from our agriculture peers is icing on the cake."

Developed to further educate and assist food retailers and meat managers, the guide contains information to respond to consumer questions about veal, including nutritional value, appropriate cooking methods, frequently asked questions and the industry's quality assurance program.

The guide also provides retailers with a list of expert spokespeople who can answer questions regarding communications and retail marketing. To date, 1,300 retail guides have been distributed.

For a copy of the veal retail guide, contact the American Veal Association office at (717) 985-9125.

We Salute Our Farming Industry

Here's something Lancaster Farming subscribers have been waiting for: the 2003 Lancaster Farming Fair Guide booklet, scheduled to premier May 24. Thousands of our readers count on Lancaster Farming to provide them with the latest fair news during the summer and fall season. You can look toward the fairs with this extensive directory, covering an eight-state region. Planned is a list of fairs and fair association news. Will photos of your family turn up in the book from fairs around the region? Check it out!



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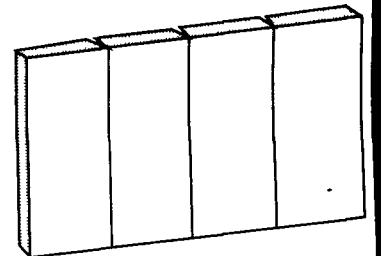
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