

Breeds Conservancy Issues Alert For Showing Animals

PITTSBORO, N. C. — Is there anything more fun than taking your animals to a show or fair? You not only get to show off that prize ewe or doe, you get to see all of your friends' best animals too.

Showing is a good way to promote conservation priority breeds because they are before the eyes of interested people and looking their best.

It's a lot of work but it's worth it, and this year there is one more thing to add to your show "To Do" list — make sure you're in compliance with the new Scrapes Eradication Rules. The bottom line is that exhibitors need to fully comply with official scrapie identification (ID) regulations.

Before we get to specifics, there is one more thing you need to know: ID requirements can and do vary from show to show and state to state. The rules covered in this brochure are the basic standards outlined by federal regulations.

Shows/exhibitions and individual states must meet these federal standards, but they can, and often do, exceed them. So to be safe, always check with your event organizers and/or state animal health officials.

BASICS FOR SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS

Q. What categories of sheep and goats require official ID at shows/exhibitions?

A. All breeding females, i.e. ewes, ewe lambs, does and doelings; All breeding rams and bucks.

Q. What categories of sheep and goats do not require official scrapie ID at shows/exhibitions?

A. Wethers, unless otherwise required by state regulations in the state where the show is taking place or by a specific show's rules.

Q. Does this mean that official scrapie ID must be in place for all sheep and goats, as outlined in the first question, for all shows?

A. No, shows and exhibitions that are not open to out-of-state

exhibitors are not required to have official scrapie ID. However, the show or state may have such a requirement, so be sure to check the show rules or with the organizers of the event.

Q. When can breed registration tattoos be used in place of official scrapie ID tags?

A. A registration tattoo can be used when the animal is accompanied by its registration paper or a photocopy or a completed application for registration.

Q. Are electronic microchips allowed in goats for exhibition?

A. If your goat breed registry recognizes electronic microchips as an authorized form of ID and the microchip number is recorded on the registration certificate, then electronic ID is acceptable. You must also have your registration certificate (or a copy of it) or a health certificate which includes the microchip number that matches the one on the registration certificate. Further you must take your own reader unless one is provided by the show.

Q. When should sheep or goats be tagged?

A. Any time prior to leaving the farm or ranch.

Q. What about health certificates?

A. Anytime sheep or goats cross state lines, they must be accompanied by a health certificate (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection). Note: Check the show rules; some events require health certificates for all entries.

Q. How do I know if a given show will have entries from other states?

A. Check the shows official rules or ask the show organizers.

Q. Who do I call to find out what my state requires for official scrapie ID at shows/exhibitions?

A. Contact your local veterinarian. Also, your State Veterinarian's Office can inform you of ID requirements and movement restrictions. Phone numbers for

www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie.

Q. If I am taking my animals to an out-of-state show, can I assume that I must have official scrapie ID and a health certificate?

A. Yes.

Q. Where can I get official identification tags and/or more information?

A. Simply call 1-866-873-2824. That number will put you in touch with animal health officials in your state who are responsible for the scrapie eradication program.

Q. What if my sheep or goat loses its official ID?

A. Replace it with a new one, and record the new number and flock of birth in your records.

Q. If I sell my sheep or goat at the show, what records am I required to keep?

A. Record the ID of the individual animal(s) sold and the buyers name, address and telephone number and retain the records for five years.

Q. Where can I find out more about scrapie and the scrapie eradication program?

A. Contact your local veterinarian or call your State Veterinarian's Office. Or, check out: USDA, APHIS Veterinary Services www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie; and/or: National Institute for Animal Agriculture www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie.

Established in 1977, the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) is a national, non-profit, membership organization based in Pittsboro, North Carolina, dedicated to the conservation and promotion of endangered breeds of livestock and poultry. Membership is \$30 per year.

To become a member, for information about breed conservation, or to contribute to ALBC's efforts, contact: PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312; (919) 542-5704 or on the web at www.albc-usa.org.

Penn State Offers A Website To Guide Beef Producers

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Beef producers can consult a new interactive Website developed by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences for help in scheduling routine management activities for their herds, guidance in keeping thorough records, timely business tips, and information about beef-related events.

Progressive beef producers will find the Website — beefcalendar.cas.psu.edu — a vital tool for their businesses.

The calendar is a joint effort of Penn State, Purdue University, and the University of Kentucky, developed from a print-version management calendar that is produced annually by the University of Kentucky. State advisory committees worked under the direction of a state coordinator to develop the calendar components appropriate for each specific location. Penn State beef specialist John Comerford served as coordinator for Pennsylvania.

By asking producers a series of questions about desired calving dates, breeding methods, and

weaning ages, the Website utilizes standard gestation periods to recommend a custom schedule for management of the beef herd.

Producers also can use the calendar to record personal dates, such as birthdates, anniversaries, etc.

Another component of the calendar is the inclusion of monthly tips to address seasonal management activities, such as weed control, planting of small grain and forage crops, and animal health measures.

Long term goals for future development of the Website include the addition of performance and quality assurance records. The site also may grow to assist producers in meeting the requirements of proposed Country-of-Origin Labeling legislation.

In the future, the interactive beef calendar also may serve as a reminder to producers to record treatment records and provide a convenient site for future reference and analysis of herd performance.

Redding Testifies Before House Ag Subcommittee

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — At the request of Congressman Tim Holden, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's (PDA) Deputy Secretary for Administration, Russell Redding testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management in Washington, D.C. on the importance of specialty crop insurance.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the Department to advocate for change in federal crop insurance programs to reflect the diversity of Pennsylvania agriculture," said Redding. "With more growers producing crops for local and metropolitan markets, specialty crop insurance is rising in importance yet most remain un-insurable."

In the Agriculture Risk Protection Act (ARPA) of 2000, Penn-

sylvania was listed as one of 15 states considered underserved by crop insurance. Since then, through federal cost share programs and the development of the AGR-Lite program, PDA has made great strides in improving the crop insurance options available to Pennsylvania farmers.

As a result PDA's efforts, Pennsylvania was one of four states asked to testify before Congress.

"Promoting improved farm-level risk management has shown to be good public policy for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and has added financial strength on thousands of Pennsylvania farms. With repeated disasters within the last several years, crop insurance has been the cornerstone for the survival of Pennsylvania farms," said Redding.

Richard Herr from
Hostellers Mennonite Church
at Littlestown, PA
Sunday, August 10, 7:00
Will be speaking at Millwood
Mennonite Church,
Lancaster, PA.

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Lancaster Farming's Boarder & Trainer has another fantastic section scheduled Aug. 9. The summer B&T is scheduled to include a feature on Percheron horses, an interview with two "horse dentists," pictorial coverage of a major horse show, and how one horse owner turned her experiences into an inspirational book. Also included: housing and fencing requirements for horses and a special column on draft horses, along with many other goodies. Watch for it!



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