

Michigan Sheep Producers Association



Michigan Shepherds Weekend

January 5 –7, 2018

Crowne Plaza

925 S. Creyts Rd, Lansing, Michigan 48917

Crowne Plaza

For hotel reservations, call 877-322-5544. A block of rooms has been reserved for Shepherd's Weekend participants at a rate of \$106.00 +tax/night. **When making reservations, specify Michigan Shepherd's Weekend. Call number shown or go online to www.crowneplaza.com/lansingwest. Reservation group code is SHE. Make your reservation by December 31, 2017 to qualify for this price.**

MAIN SPEAKER: Susan Schoenian is the Sheep & Goat Specialist at the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center and has been with University of Maryland Extension since 1988. Susan's two animal science degrees are from Virginia Tech and Montana State University. As an extension educator, she has traveled internationally to many countries. Susan is the author of several web pages and social media sites, including the Maryland Small Ruminant Page (sheepandgoat.com), Sheep 101, and wormx, the web site of the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control. Susan has a small farm called the Baalands, where she breeds purebred and crossbred Katahdin sheep.

Schedule of Events – Friday, January 5 – Room D

Sponsors to be announced

- 6:00 pm Light refreshments available to participants and audience prior to the start of the program.
- 6:30-8:00 pm **Industry and Innovation Presentation Competition**
Presentations by young producers on topics relevant to the sheep industry. This year presentations will be judged and a winner will be chosen from each division. MSPA will pay for the hotel room for Friday night only for the first 4 participants registered. Please contact Heather Ludlam at drhludlam@gmail.com for more information, competition rules, and to get registered!
Young Producer Division- ages 18-35. Winner will receive a trip to the ASI Convention January 31 – February 3, 2018 in San Antonio, TX. Registration, airfare, and lodging included.
High School 4H/FFA Division - ages 14-17. Recognition and prizes will be given to all participants.
- 8:00-9:00 pm **Time permitting, an informal panel discussion with Michigan Young Producers** from all over Michigan. This will be a great opportunity to learn from each other!

Schedule of Events – Saturday, January 6

- 7:30 am Registration in Lobby for programs and competitions.
- 8:00 am Early bird coffee sponsored by Sydells.Inc and (TBA-to be announced)
- 8:45-9:05 am Opening session/welcome, Ballroom D/E/F – Denise Bartlett, President MSPA
- 9:10-10:15 **Dr. Richard Ehrhardt**, Departments of Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Science, MSU- Sheep Farming Innovations in Michigan during 2017". Dr. Ehrhardt will discuss the current commodity markets for both lamb and wool. He will then discuss the mission of the MSU Sheep Farm including new practices and research on sheep production at the newly renovated unit.
- 10:20-11:25 **Susan Schoenian - Worm wisdom. Gut parasites are an age old problem that requires new solutions.** The old ways of managing gastro-intestinal parasitism are becoming increasingly ineffective and unsustainable. Nowadays, a more holistic approach that relies less on anthelmintics and more on management is required. This presentation will focus on the latest recommendations for parasite control, including animal selection, pasture and grazing management, and judicious drug use.

11:30 – 11:45 **Dale Thorne** – American Lamb Board

11:50 Lunch on your own or buffet offered by hotel. Mingle with vendors.

NEW TIME – 12:00 Ram Session. Meet in Room TBD with your lunch for discussion

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: EXPLANATION OF EACH BREAKOUT SESSION IS DESCRIBED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Time	ROOM C MATT SCRAMLIN Moderator	ROOM D BEN BARTLETT Moderator	ROOM E HEATHER LUDLAM/WENDY VILLARREAL Moderator	ROOM F Cameron Lauwers Moderator Program developed by Dr. Richard Ehrhardt
1:15 – 2 pm	Matt Scramlin New Zealand: Agriculture from the Other Side of the World	Ben Bartlett Soil Health – Free Water & Fertilizer	Daniel Persons, Shearwell Data Systems Electronic Identification and Recordkeeping	Dr. Cesar Rosales-Nieto, Visiting Fulbright Scientist. Improving Reproductive Efficiency in Sheep
2:05 – 2:55 pm	Matt Scramlin REPEAT New Zealand: Agriculture from the Other Side of the World	Dean Baas How To Treat Your Soil Right	Cameron Lauwers & Isaac Matchett Pros and Cons of Automatic Lamb Feeders	Dr. Erin Recktenwald Using the Spartan Sheep Production Model to Analyze Cost of Lamb Production in Several Production Scenarios
3:00	Ice Cream Break			
3:15 – 4 pm	Matt Scramlin Club Lambs: Are They Really That Different?	Jerry Lindquist Grazing Multi Specie Cover Crops In Michigan To Save Dollars and Improve Soils	Charles Scovill Barn Cameras Wendy Villareal Feeding Technology	Dr. Richard Ehrhardt Understanding Wool Growth

4:05 -5:00

NEW THIS YEAR. Room F 2016 Award Winners will have 20 minutes each to make a presentation. Master Commercial Producer, Bill & Jodi Kelley, Master Club Lamb Producer, Dick & Betty Seeley, Master Purebred Producer, Dr. James & Donna Averill. Dave Meeuwse is moderator.

Description of each Breakout Session

Room C

Matt Scramlin –Moderator

1:15 – 2:00

Ever wonder what agriculture can be like on the other side of the world? Ever wonder if what you are doing is the same as somewhere else? Ever think you would like to see mountains everywhere? Well if you ever thought any of these, but did not really want the 15 hour flight to find out, here is the session for you.

2:05 – 2:55

Repeat – Agriculture from the other side of the world

3:15 – 4:00

Club lamb shows and sales are increasing in numbers, and it continues to be more competitive all the time. Listen in on tips for nutrition, health and selection for your flock. For someone that would like to get started to someone that is just looking for tips to move forward.

Room D

Ben Bartlett – Moderator - *Managing your soil-plant system for lower cost & more profit*

1:15 – 2:00

Ben Bartlett, DVM & sheep and cattle producer. Soil Health – Free Water & Fertilizer. What does African Serengeti and your pastures have in common? – Everything. Learn why promoting a healthy soil-plant community in your fields will lower your costs and increase your profits.

2:05 – 2:55

Dean Baas, Educator, Sustainable Agriculture, Ag and Agribusiness Institute, MSU Extension. How to treat Your Soil Right. Your soil health impacts your productivity. Learn about common practices that degrade your soil health and practices that can improve your soil health. Rotational diversity, minimum/no-till, manure/compost and cover crops along with considerations to consider when modifying your management practices will be discussed.

3:15-4:00 pm

Jerry Lindquist, Grazing & Crop Management Educator, MSU Extension. Grazing Multi Specie cover crops in Michigan to save dollars and improve soils. Planting multiple species of annual coverage/forage crops to improve soil quality is the latest trend. Come and learn how it is working in Michigan and why the grazing animal is the key and how to make it work on your farm.

Room E

Heather Ludlam/Wendy Villarreal - Moderators

1:15 – 2:00

Daniel Persons – Shearwell Data Systems. Benefits and opportunities of sheep farming with electronic identification and recordkeeping.

2:05 – 2:55

Cameron Lauwers and Isaac Matchett. Young sheep producers who will present the pros and cons of automatic lamb feeders.

3:15 – 4:00

Charles Scovill and Wendy Villarreal. Two presentations: Charles Scovill will talk about how to successfully install and utilize barn cameras and Wendy Villarreal will present the pros and cons of new feeding technology.

Room F

Cameron Lauwers – Moderator. Program developed by Dr. Richard Ehrhardt

1:15 – 2:00

Dr. Cesar Rosales-Nieto, Visiting Fulbright Scientist, Department of Animal Science, MSU - Improving reproductive efficiency in sheep production. Dr. Rosales-Nieto is a highly experienced sheep research scientist with training in sheep production science in Mexico, Texas and Western Australia. This talk will focus on methods of improving reproductive efficiency in sheep in feasible ways for forage based management programs. Highlights will include matching of nutritional inputs with reproductive events, new insights into the use of the ram effect, and the use of ultrasound and birth site management to improve lamb survival.

2:05 – 2:55

Dr. Erin Recktenwald, Research and Extension Associate, Department of Animal Science, MSU. Using the Spartan Sheep Production Model to analyze cost of lamb production in several production scenarios. Dr Recktenwald will use her recently developed production model to compare the income over feed cost of lamb production in several scenarios, including once per year lambing on pasture and accelerated lamb production.

3:15-4:00

Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, Departments of Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Science, MSU. Understanding Wool Growth". Dr. Ehrhardt will describe the biology of how wool grows and discuss how to optimize management to minimize defects and produce the best quality product.

Saturday evening

- 5:00 – 6:00 pm Walk thru the Trade Show
6:00 pm Social hour and youth auction – Doyle Dingman, Auctioneer
6:30–10:00 pm Sub sandwich & pizza party for youth
7:00 pm Banquet – Denise Barlett, MC. **Lamb donated by Wolverine Packing Company**

Schedule of Events – Sunday, January 7

- 8:00 am Wake up coffee sponsored by Sanders Insurance Agency
Breakfast on your own. There is a restaurant in the hotel or fast food restaurants close by.
- 8:30 am Meditation – Dale Thorne – TBD
- 9:00–10:00 **Susan Schoenian - It's the girls that make you money: selection of replacement females and culling of under-performing ewes.** Choosing ewes that are going to make you money is one of the most important decisions a producer has to make. Sound, healthy ewes that wean a high percentage of their body weight are the goal. Are you selecting the right ones? Are you getting rid of the right ones? This presentation will focus on the criteria used to make good selection and culling decisions.
- 10:05-10:45 Annual meeting MSPA President– Denise Bartlett
- 10:45-11:05 ASI Update, **John Dvorak**, ASI Region 3 Director
- 11:05-11:15 Mike and Heather Ludlam will update progress on the Ovine GM1 for Huntington's Disease project that was introduced to MSPA by Dr.Larry and Susan Holler in 2016.
- 11:15-11:45 Long Range Plan – Denise Bartlett
- 11:45 am Brunch
- 1:00-2:00 pm **Dr. Richard Ehrhardt**, Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, Departments of Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Science, MSU. What can we learn about optimizing sheep management and marketing from the Spartan Sheep Production Model? The newly developed Spartan Sheep Production Model provides a powerful tool assess the impact of nutritional management and marketing strategies on the profitability of lamb production. Come and learn what management decisions are the most influential in increasing your profits and how these strategies will pay off when achieving them.

You can register online or mail the registration form in this newsletter by December 31. For online registration, go to <http://www.misheep.org>. Look for the online registration form under the heading Forms. You can pay using Paypal or by check. Deadline is December 31. You can also register on-site.

Youth Programs & Activities

(Aurora Room on southeast corner of hotel lobby)

Saturday, January 6

- 9:30 – 9:35 am Welcome - **Brenda Reau**, Youth Committee Chair
- 9:35 10:35 am Successful Selecting, Feeding and Showing of Club Lambs – Two families who have been successful at the county, state, and national level with club lambs will share their strategies for success – **Barnum and Henne families**, moderated by **Samantha Ludlam**
- 10:35 –10:45 Door prizes and refreshment break. **Sponsored by Scovill’s Sheep City**
- 10:50 - 11:15 Club lamb program continues
- 11:15 –11:50 Moving Sheep: Are You Prepared? Are you buying or selling sheep out of state? Going to a show? This session will help you understand health papers and what you need to do to move sheep across state lines- **Dr. James Averill, State Veterinarian and Donna Averill, MSU Veterinary Technician.**
- 11:50 –Noon Door prizes and announcements for afternoon schedule
- 12:00 –1:00 pm LUNCH on your own with your parents

Please preregister for the following afternoon activities so we can plan for transportation and supplies.

- 1:15–3:45 Bus tour to MSU Sheep Teaching and Research Facility – Tour the new sheep barn at MSU and stop on the way back for ice cream at the MSU dairy store. You must be 9 or older to go on the tour unless accompanied by a parent or older sibling.
OR
- 1:30 – 3:00 Make -It Take-It Wool Workshop
- 4:00 – 4:45 Preparing for 4-H and FFA Awards – Find out the benefits of these awards and learn how to write a successful application and how to prepare for the interview – **Samantha Ludlam**
- 6:30-10:00 pm Sub/Pizza and Swimming Party - Ages 5-18. Cost is \$3.00.
Join your friends for a good time while mom and dad attend the Annual Banquet. Bring your swimsuits and basketballs. Party is coordinated by Donyaellie Wheaton. The youth party is sponsored by the Doug Uzelac Family and TBA

Sunday, January 7

- 9:00-11:00 am Junior Quiz Bowl Contest - Ages 13 and under will compete in teams of four. Come with a team, or facilitators will help you find a team. Prizes for all teams will be awarded at the brunch.
- 9:00 11:00 Master Shepherd Competition - Ages 14-18. This event will challenge older youth to apply their skills and knowledge about sheep. Teams of two or three will all be given a “real life” scenario to address. Each team will have time to problem solve and prepare a short presentation that will be given to a panel of judges. Prizes for all teams will be awarded at the brunch.

Weekend Events

Trade Show – Industry representatives from all segments of the sheep industry have been invited to participate in a commercial exhibit area that will be open throughout the weekend.

Warm & Woolly Competition – Handspun Yarn and Handcrafted Items. **New for 2018! New guidelines and forms are on misheep.org** under the heading Forms. Martha Town and Kelly Brandt have volunteered to help out with this event and invite all members young and old to submit examples of their hand spinning and hand crafted wool articles to demonstrate all the possibilities our wool crop has to offer. This year we invite felters, knitters, braiders, crocheters, weavers, and all other hand crafters who use wool yarns and/or fibers in their creations. We want to demonstrate the variety of uses for the assortment of wools we produce from both our larger and smaller flocks. Items need not be completed in the last year so bring some pieces that show off your skills! If you are considering donating a skein or finished wool craft to one of the auctions, please consider entering it in one of the competitions first. There will be cash prizes awarded! Register for this contest near the registration desk Saturday morning between 7:30 and 10 am.

If you have any questions at all, reach out to Kelly Brandt at kellybrandt@yahoo.com or 616-374-7176 or to Martha Town at mtown@frontiernet.net." Winners will be announced at the banquet.

Photo Contest – Contestants shall consist of two age groups: YOUTH - 17 years old and younger and ADULT – 18 years old and up. Photo shall be a 5x7 only. Pictures may be Black & White or Color. Both Youth and Adult divisions will include the following classes

1. Portrait of a sheep
2. Flock scene
3. Human interest
4. Fairs and exhibitions
5. Shearer at work

Limit – ONE photo per division per contestant. Entries MUST be submitted on Saturday, January 4 between 10 am and 12 noon. Entries must be suitably matted and framed with secure hooks for hanging or be able to free stand.

Entries MUST have the following information on the back of photo to qualify for the contest:

1. Adult's name or Youth's name with parents' name
2. Age group and youth's age
3. Class division

Pictures will be judged late afternoon. Winners will be announced at the banquet. There will be a special award for Best of Show. Photos can be picked up Saturday evening. If you have further questions, please call **Deb Caryl** at 810-653-1436

Silent Auctions – Two silent auctions will provide an opportunity to purchase some great items to support our youth program. The Saturday auction will conclude at 3:15 pm. The Sunday auction will conclude at 11 am. Winners will be able to pay for items at the registration desk. **Coordinator is Brenda Reau.**

Make It With Wool Contest – Make It With Wool participants will conduct a short style show during the banquet and sell Wool Comforter Raffle tickets. **Coordinator is Cindy Reisig.**

Banquet – The MSPA Annual Banquet will begin with a social hour and auction at 6:00 pm on Saturday. Dinner starts at 7 pm. The auction will continue after dinner. The auction includes a variety of donated items and proceeds are used to support statewide youth programs. The "Service to the Sheep Industry Award" will be presented and the Master Sheep Producer Award recipients will be recognized. Banquet tickets are \$25.00 and MUST be purchased in advance and tickets will be collected at the banquet. **Lamb is donated by Wolverine Packing Company.**

Sunday Brunch – A brunch is available for symposium participants to **this brunch**. Tickets for this event MUST be purchased in advance and will be collected at the brunch. Tickets will not be available for on-site purchase.