

Michigan Sheep Producers Association  
**Michigan Shepherds Weekend**  
January 6-8, 2023  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
925 S. Croyts Rd, Lansing, Michigan 48917

**Schedule of Events – Friday, January 6**

- 6:00 PM Light refreshments available to participants and audience prior to the start of the program.
- 6:30-8:00 PM **Young Producer 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. Recognition and prizes will be given to all participants. 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](mailto:drhludlam@gmail.com) for more information, and competition rules, and to get registered!
- Young Producer Division: Ages 18-35. The winner will receive a trip to the ASI Convention on January 18-21, 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas. Registration, airfare, and lodging are included.
- High School 4H/FFA Division: Ages 14-17. Winners will receive prizes!
- 8:00-9:00 PM **Panel Discussion with Michigan Young Producers**  
An informal panel discussion with a diverse group of young sheep producers from all over Michigan. This should be a great opportunity to learn from each other!

**Schedule of Events – Saturday, January 7**

- 7:30 AM Registration Opens
- 8:00 AM Early Bird Coffee
- 9:00 AM **Opening Session**  
Brenda Reau, MSPA President
- 9:15-10:05 **Sheep Farming Innovations in Michigan during 2022**  
Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, Small Ruminant Specialist, MSU. A review of lamb markets along with innovative new practices and ideas gleaned from the field in 2021.
- 10:15-11:30 **Keynote: Revisiting What's Overlooked: Precision Flock Management Strategies that Pay**  
Whit Stewart will cover some of the most overlooked management strategies that often overlooked but that can provide a significant return on investment and/or prevention of production losses. Real-world examples will be provided with accompanying economic values.
- 11:45 AM **Lunch**  
Mingle with vendors. Lunch on your own or purchase tickets in advance.
- 12:00 PM **Ram Session**  
Open discussion on current trends in sheep production facilitated by Dave Meeuwse.
- 1:30-5:15 PM **Breakout Sessions**  
Details of each session are described on the following page.

	<b>Room A</b>	<b>Room B</b>	<b>Room C</b>	<b>Reo Room</b>
1:30 – 2:15 PM	Securing our American Sheep & Wool Supply <i>Samantha Ludlam</i>	Sheep Breeds 101 <i>Panel Discussion</i>	Understanding the Factors that Impact the Eating Quality of Lamb <i>Dr. Andrea Garyman</i>	Breeding Soundness Exams <i>Dr. Julie Strachota</i>
2:20 – 3:05 PM	Introduction to American Wool Assurance Program (AWA) <i>Samantha Ludlam</i>	Barn Innovations <i>Panel Discussion</i>	Tips to Improve Lambing Management <i>Dr. Richard Erhardt</i>	Predator Control <i>USDA APHIS Wildlife Services</i>
3:05 PM - Ice Cream Break				
3:30 - 4:15 PM	Antibiotic Resistance & Regulation Changes <i>Dr. Heather Ludlam</i>	Michigan Lamb Feeder Operations <i>Panel Discussion</i>	Factors Impacting the Carbon Footprint of US Lamb Production <i>Dr. Erin Recktenwald,</i>	Artificial Insemination & Embryo Transfer <i>Dr. Megan Freeland Moore</i>
4:20 - 5:15 PM				2022 Commercial, Club Lamb, and Purebred Producer Award Winner Presentations

## Breakout Session Descriptions

### Room A

- 1:30 – 2:15    Securing our American Sheep & Wool Supply - The Secure Sheep and Wool Supply (SSWS) Plan for Continuity of Business provides opportunities to voluntarily prepare before an Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. This session will focus on the basics of FMD and how producers can create plans for their own operations.
- 2:20 – 3:05    Introduction to American Wool Assurance Program (AWA) - Learn more about the American Wool industry’s new quality assurance program for sheep producers and how to get your flock certified.

3:30 – 4:15 **Antibiotic Resistance & Regulation Changes** - Get the latest updates of the Food and Drug Administration changes for antibiotic usage in livestock. Gain insight into current antibiotic resistance trends and strategies when managing small ruminant flocks.

## Room B

1:30–2:15 **Sheep Breeds 101** - This session is designed specifically for beginners or those looking to make a change in their current flocks. A panel will discuss all of the pros, cons, and unique features of common sheep breeds in Michigan.

2:20–3:05 **Barn Innovations** - In this session, you will learn the ins and outs of different Michigan producers' sheep barns and their unique and time-saving innovations and equipment inventions. Bring your grandest plans and questions for this panel discussion.

3:30-4:15 **Michigan Lamb Feeder Operations** - In this panel discussion, come and learn what Michigan's lamb feeders want from producers, as well as what their day-to-day procedures and operations entail.

## Room C

1:30–2:15 **Understanding the Factors that Impact the Eating Quality of Lamb** - Dr. Garmyn has been at the forefront of meat quality research in the world over the past 10 years and we are lucky to have her at MSU as our meat specialist. Come learn about the factors that impact lamb quality from an expert.

2:20–3:05 **Tips to Improve Lambing Management** - Every farm has practices that they adopt to try to make lambing management optimal for both sheep and shepherds. Join Dr. Ehrhardt as he shares these practices gleaned over the years of learning from creative producers.

3:30–4:15 **Factors Impacting the Carbon Footprint of US Lamb Production** - Find out how production practices impact the carbon footprint of lamb production. Dr. Recktenwald will share the findings of a national study that measured the carbon footprint of lamb production in a diversity of US production systems and discuss how this has identified several factors that are highly influential in the carbon emission of lamb.

## Reo Room

1:15–2:00 **Breeding Soundness Exams** - Join theriogenologist, Dr. Julie Strachota, to learn the ins and outs of breeding soundness exams. Everything from when to do them to how to utilize the data gathered for best production practices.

2:05–4:00 **Predator Control** - This session will act as a question and answer opportunity with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Wildlife Division employees about predator control opportunities in Michigan.

3:30–4:15 **Artificial Insemination & Embryo Transfer** - This session is for anyone who is looking to learn more about artificial insemination protocols and embryo transfer opportunities within the small ruminant industry. Dr. Freeland Moore will share her perspective as both a producer and practitioner.

4:20–5:15 **2022 Producer of the Year Presentations** - Enjoy presentations from the 2022 Commercial Producers of the Year: Tony Wernette & Family, the 2022 Club Lamb Producers of the Year: Thomas Buckham, and the 2022 Purebred Producers of the Year: Penny Swearingen.

5:00–6:00 PM Trade Show Open

6:00–7:00 PM Social Hour and Youth Auction

6:30–10:00 PM Youth Pool Party - Sub Sandwich & Pizza

7:00–9:00 PM Banquet - Lamb donated by Wolverine Packing Company

### **Schedule of Events – Sunday, January 9**

- 8:00 AM Early Bird Coffee  
Breakfast on your own. Grab and go breakfast available to overnight guests.
- 8:30 AM Meditation
- 9:00 AM Grassroots Strategies for Developing Wool Markets  
Whit Stewart will review strategies and initiatives from the state of Wyoming that have been proven successful in generating new markets and interest in local, American wool.
- 10:00 AM Annual Business Meeting
- 11:45 AM Brunch  
Mingle with vendors. Brunch on your own or purchase tickets in advance.
- 1:00-2:00 Understanding the Nontraditional Lamb Market in Metro Detroit  
Ronnie Berry, Ronnie Berry Halal Meats, Dearborn, MI, and Dr. Kristin Ray, USDA Michigan  
Dr. Ehrhardt will moderate a panel of experts on the lamb markets found in Detroit. Ronnie Berry will share his life-long knowledge of these markets and consumer preferences for lamb. Dr. Ray will share her expertise in Halal meat systems and their requirements and certification systems.

## **Youth Programs & Activities**

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### **Saturday, January 7**

- 9:45 AM Welcome – Nick Babcock, Youth Committee Chairman
- 9:50 AM Sheep Breed and Shepherd's Tools Identification Contest – Anyone 18 and under can participate and prizes will be given in junior, intermediate and senior age divisions. Test your knowledge of breeds of sheep and the equipment used in a sheep farming operation.
- 10:05 AM The Veterinarian and You –No matter how many sheep you have making sure to have a relationship with a veterinarian is critical to your operation. You can learn how a veterinarian can help you with your sheep farming operation, what you can expect from them, and get questions you have answered.
- 10:55 AM Refreshment Break
- 11:05 AM Online Marketing Your Sheep – Have you ever wondered how to get that perfect picture of your lamb, or what things to highlight when selling your sheep online? If you are looking to sell your sheep in an online sale, or market it for the county fair this session will help you market your sheep online.
- 11:50 AM Door prizes and breed identification contest winners announced.
- 12:00 PM Lunch. On your own with your parents.
- 1:30-3:00 PM Career Exploration and Entrepreneurship – Have you ever wondered about what opportunities there are for you in the sheep Industry? Have you ever thought about creating your own business? This session will help youth of all ages think about both career opportunities and business development/opportunities for the sheep industry and beyond.
- 6:30-10:00 **Sub/Pizza and Swimming Party - Ages 5-18. Cost is \$5.00.**  
Join your friends for a good time while mom and dad attend the Annual Banquet. Bring your swimsuits and basketballs!

### **Sunday, January 8**

- 9:00–11:00 **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**

This beautiful exhibit celebrates the variety and usefulness of the many types of wool that our sheep produce, as well as the creativity of MSPA members, both adults, and youth! Handspun Yarn and all other wool crafts may be entered. A people's choice award will be presented this year in place of judging.

Entries can be delivered to the Registration area on Saturday before 10 am. Entry forms will be available there or can be printed from the MSPA website. Entry forms will include age category (Youth 17 or younger; Adult 18 and over) and Experience in each technique (Novice or Experienced). Entries must be created by the entrant, not previously shown in this competition, and made from wool. Entries may be picked up any time after 4:30 pm on Saturday.

### **Photo Contest**

Contestants shall consist of two age groups: YOUTH - 17 years old and younger and ADULT – 18 years old and up. Photos shall be a 5x7 only. Pictures may be Black & White or Color. Both Youth and Adult divisions will include the following classes: Portrait of a sheep, Flock Scene, Human Interest, Fairs and Exhibitions, and 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 the 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

Winners will be announced and awards will be given out on Saturday 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**

There will be silent auctions this year to provide an opportunity to purchase some great items to support our youth program. Winners will be able to pay for items at the registration desk with a check or credit card.

### **Make It With Wool Contest**

Make It With Wool participants will conduct a short style show during the banquet. The coordinator is Cindy Reisig.

### **Banquet**

The 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 the proceeds are used to support statewide youth programs. The "Service to the Sheep Industry Award" will be presented and the Sheep Producer of the Year Recipients will be recognized. Banquet tickets are \$30.00 and MUST be purchased in advance and tickets will be collected at the banquet. Tickets will not be available for on-site purchase.

### **Sunday Brunch**

A brunch will be available for symposium participants. Brunch tickets are \$15.00 and MUST be purchased in advance and will be collected at the brunch. Tickets will not be available for on-site purchase.