

Major Sheep/Goat event set for San Angelo

Back-to-back educational programs will address the changing industry

By Steve Byrns

What organizers tout as the largest, most comprehensive sheep and goat production educational opportunity in recent times is coming to fruition. A diverse and changing sheep and goat industry will highlight two back-to-back educational opportunities in San Angelo on Friday and Saturday, August 28-29. (Texas A&M AgriLife Communications photo by Steve Byrns)

The venue is actually two events set back-to-back on August 28-29 in San Angelo, said Marvin Ensor, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service regional program leader in San Angelo.

He said the first of the two is the 42nd Annual Sheep and Goat Field Day conducted by and on the grounds of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center located just north of San Angelo. That event starts with registration at 8 am, followed by the program from 9 am to 1 pm August 28.

The second event is the first ever Texas Sheep and Goat Expo set from 2 pm to 8:30 pm, also on August 28, and again on August 29 from 7 am to 4 pm at the San Angelo Fairgrounds.

“The Texas sheep and goat industry is undergoing tremendous change,” Ensor said. “And the AgriLife agencies, AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Research, are staying abreast of those changes. The industry is as diverse now as perhaps it’s ever been, so we are offering these events that will specifically target this diversity.”

“As an example, our traditional wool sheep, by far the most predominant variety in the West for generations, are making way for an ever increasing hair sheep population. And while both are sheep, there are significant differences in the management and marketing of wool sheep, a dual-purpose animal, and hair sheep kept solely as meat producers. The expo curriculum will recognize and address the specific needs and interests of these two sheep types and the other major segments of the industry—club lamb, and meat goat production, while recognizing and providing support in the common areas that impact all aspects of the sheep and goat industry.”

The annual Sheep and Goat Field Day is a long-standing tradition of the AgriLife center dating back to the 1970s. The field day is generally scheduled the first Thursday of each September, but Ensor said both events complement one another so well that planners opted to move the field day to coincide with the expo as a convenience to participants.

The expo is to be a premier state-level event with emphasis on demonstrations and hands-on activities that will follow the center’s August 28 field day. Activities on August 29 will start

early at the San Angelo Fairgrounds with a chuck wagon breakfast followed by concurrent sessions featuring the various management and marketing techniques specific to wool breeds, hair sheep, club lamb production and meat goats.

Commercial businesses will exhibit new equipment, products and services at both events.

“Both these programs will be packed with information,” Ensor said. “We’d like folks to first attend the center’s field day that touts work being conducted there, including the extensive flock guard dog work being done, work on using juniper in deer feed to limit the problem of feral hogs eating much of it, insight into factors affecting lamb prices, the latest in prescribed fire management and some very interesting wool garment work. After a sponsored lunch at the center, activities will move to the San Angelo Fairgrounds for the start of the expo.”

“It will be a full two days, and participants can take part in any or all of both events. We do hope they will take advantage of both programs though, as we have never offered such an opportunity before.”

Ensor said expo presenters will include AgriLife personnel, Texas A&M University faculty, veterinarians, Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory staff, agribusinesses and area ranchers.

The concurrent expo sessions will include:

- Wool Sheep Session: rancher panels on effective coyote, bobcat, feral hog control; lambing rate expectations and current goals, and how to increase the number of lambs marketed.

- Hair Sheep Session: hair sheep breeds overview; recommended best management practices-rancher panel; tips on selecting breeding stock with a cull-keep demonstration; marketing opportunities for hair sheep; and cause, prevention and treatment of pneumonia.

- Club Lamb Session: ram breeding soundness and semen collection; testing for reproductive and other diseases; breed classification standards; the facts about coccidiosis and other internal parasites; and keys to a successful embryo transfer



Scholarship Awarded! Coke County Deputy Anthony Lopez (left) was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Sheriffs’ Association of Texas last week. The certificate, presented to Lopez by Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen, was given during the annual Sheriff’s Convention earlier this month in San Antonio.

program.

- Meat Goat Session: use of embryo transfer technology to improve genetics-producer panel; testing for reproductive and other diseases; pregnancy testing using ultrasound and Pregnancy-Specific Protein B technology; coccidiosis and other parasites; and cause, prevention and treatment of pneumonia.

The AgriLife Center sheep and goat field day is free including the lunch there.

Individual preregistration for the may be made online at agrilife.org/westresults/ registration or call Myra Marsh at the center at 325-653-4576, ext. 237.

For more specific information regarding either activity and their accompanying trade shows, contact Ensor at 325-653-4576, e-ensor@tamu.edu

National Cattlemen’s Foundation accepting applications for W.D. Farr Scholarships

The National Cattlemen’s Foundation is accepting applications for the W.D. Farr Scholarships for the 2015-16 school year. The annual W.D. Farr Scholarship awards were established by the National Cattlemen’s Foundation in 2007 to recognize outstanding students who plan to pursue careers in meat science and animal agriculture. Each \$12,000 award recognizes superior achievement in

academics and leadership, and will allow graduate students to further their study in fields that benefit the cattle and beef industry.

To apply for the scholarship, graduate students planning to pursue a career in meat science or the beef industry should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a description of applicant’s goals and experience, a statement of belief in the industry as well as a review of the applicant’s graduate research and three letters of recommendation.

For more information and to apply, visit nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.

What it Means to be a Texan, Officially

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, As Texans, we have a style of our own – from our hospitality to our headwear.

But you may be surprised to hear the iconic symbol of Western culture, the cowboy hat, only became an official state symbol a few weeks ago courtesy of the 84th Texas Legislature. This makes Texas the first state to designate an officially sanctioned hat.

The cowboy hat is just one of dozens of items ranging from food to flower to fossil that are Texan enough to be deemed
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