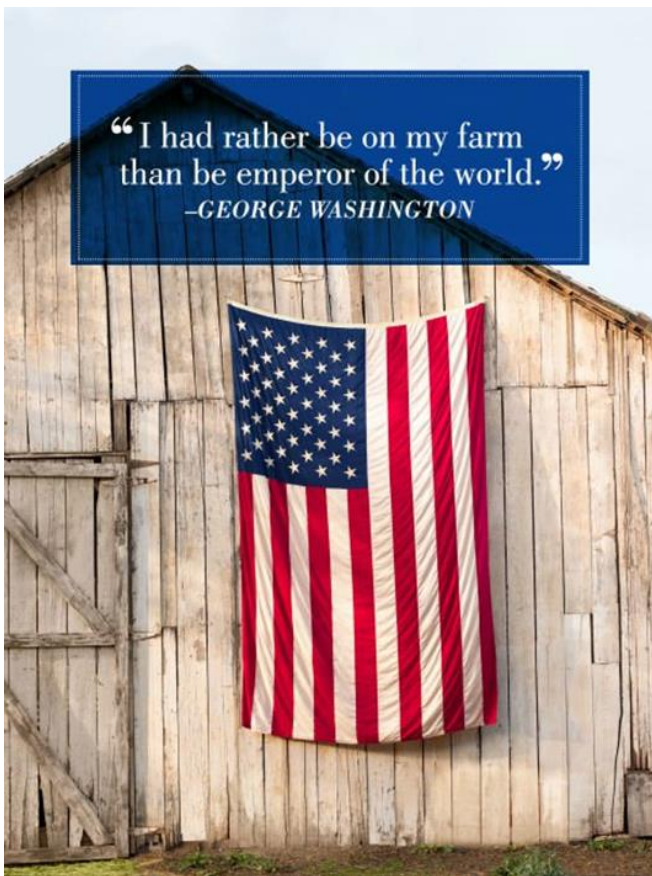




“To grow healthy sheep and successful shepherds...”

## Georgia Sheep and Wool Growers Association



[www.allcreated.com](http://www.allcreated.com)

### How do you celebrate America's birthday?

Fireworks and picnics, family reunions and road trips, small-town parades and backyard grilling?

This year, we're heading to south Georgia to spend the day with family. There will be lots of food, lots of

laughter, and a few tears for those no longer at the table.

There will also be opportunities for debate: one uncle works for an agriculture chemical company; we prefer organic methods. Politically, our extended family includes conservatives, liberals, libertarians and “none of the above”.

Regardless of where we stand on different issues, we will be united in our appreciation of freedom, family, faith, and the opportunity to live in America.

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to you and yours!**

### How can we better serve you?

At the Annual Spring Meeting, we surveyed members about education and communication preferences. Top topics for education included:

- Marketing and selling sheep and lamb
- Forage and nutrition options
- National Sheep Improvement Program
- Shepherd 201: breeding, refining, lambing
- Wool production, grading fleeces, etc.

The board is developing an educational calendar to include these topics. **What topics are YOU most interested in?** Email ([georgiasheep@gmail.com](mailto:georgiasheep@gmail.com)) or Facebook your hot topics.

Members also want more workshops on the farm. We plan to offer at least one workshop in south and north Georgia before May 2018. **If your farm would be a great host site for a workshop, let us know!**

**NEWS:** We're partnering with the University of Georgia (UGA) and Ft. Valley State University (FVSU) on a Mentor and Intern program. This program includes short-term mentoring, too. Details at [www.gasheepandwool.org](http://www.gasheepandwool.org) this month.

At a recent UGA / FVSU workshop, we learned about Sericea Lespedeza: nutritional values, grazing and haying and natural de-wormer properties. This is a forage worth exploring! (Lespedeza field below)



We also did hands-on FAMACHA training (below). FAMACHA provides a quick assessment of anemia: an essential skill for your sheep's health.



We want to be a valuable resource to shepherds at all levels. **Tell us how we can better serve you.**

### Favorite Facebook post in June:



Madelyn Hafer: "Showing lambs isn't just something to do. Showing lambs is a passion, it's a lifestyle and it's one of my favorite things to do."

Showing sheep takes a lot of blood, sweat, tears, and definitely a lot of stepped on toes... literally. Though I've only been showing sheep for about a year I have completely fallen in love with the life of showing and all that comes with it. I started off showing horses when I was very young, but sheep are a whole different story and I love the different experience.

Sheep are so much fun to work with and show and the responsibility that showing has taught me is amazing. Sometimes showing can be stressful, but in the end it's totally worth it. I wish I would have started showing earlier than I did."

### Have an all-American 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



Photo: Farmgirl Studio

Visit us at [www.gasheepandwool.org](http://www.gasheepandwool.org) ; like us on Facebook, and join our association!