



Georgia Sheep and Wool Growers

www.gasheepandwool.org

Welcome to the Georgia Sheep and Wool Growers Association! We are a network of sheep and wool producers and sheep enthusiasts. Our purpose is to promote healthy sheep and successful, well-informed shepherds.



“Why raise sheep?”

There are many pragmatic reasons: Sheep produce excellent meat, wool and milk, depending on the breed. They are eco-friendly weed eaters and grass mowers. Sheep are relatively inexpensive, require significantly less land than cattle and are easier to handle than a 1200-pound cow. The size and temperament of sheep work well for children, 4-H and FFA projects – and for aging farmers.

Beyond the practical reasons, there are few things more lovely than a grazing flock, a ewe and her lambs, or a drove of lambs frolicking in the spring.

Annual Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 20, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

UGA Veterinary Medical Center

2200 College Station Road

Athens, GA, 30602

Kelsey Paras DVM, MS; UGA Veterinary Medicine,
National Center for Veterinary Parasitology

Breakthroughs in Parasite Research and Tools

Mark Lupo, MBCP; Area Director; The University of
Georgia Small Business Development Center

Preparing the Ready: Strengthening Individual, Family and Farm Emergency Preparedness

Paula Vester, Spinner, Dyer, Teacher, Storyteller,
Demonstrator, Publisher of Fiber Books

How a City Girl Met Up with the Country and Fell in Love with Fiber

Plus: Tour of new UGA Veterinary Medical
Center, Lunch and Business Meeting

Make plans to attend the Annual Spring Meeting on May 20th. We have an outstanding line-up of speakers and topics. The meeting is free to members (\$35.00 / year). **Members get two free passes per family.**

Not a member? Not a problem! **Attendance is \$10.00 for nonmembers.** If you choose to join the association by June 30th, we'll apply the \$10.00 to your membership.



See you
May 20th!

What do you do with your sheep? Do you show? Sell breeding stock? Raise them for meat? Milk? Fiber? Send your photos to our webpage: www.gasheepandwool.org



Photographs: Junior, Tunis ram from Sheepecote Farm; Lulu, Jacob ewe from Sweet Hope Farm, a Katahdin ewe from Mellor Farm, a Champion Dorset ram from Rosewood Farm



Is the sheep industry growing or declining?

Here is a perspective from Sheep101:

Over the past 200 years, the U.S. sheep population has come full circle. From 7 million head in the early 1800's, sheep numbers peaked at 56 million in 1945, then declined to less than 7 million head on January 1, 2003. At the same time, industry emphasis has changed from wool to meat. Sheep numbers increased slightly in 2005 and 2006, the first time since 1990. They also increased by 1 percent in 2015 and 2016. The number of sheep operations increased from the 2007 to the 2012 census.

Small farms

While the U.S. sheep industry is still dominated by small numbers of large operations, these operations continue to decline for various reasons. At the same time, **small flocks are increasing, especially in the eastern half of the United States, where the majority of lamb is consumed.** To be profitable, small flocks must be productive and have access to excellent markets. Sheep are especially popular on small farms where sustainable farming practices are favored, such as pasture-finishing of lambs.

Making money with sheep

... Sheep farmers derive their income from the sales of lambs and wool and related products. Though it varies by state and farm, most income comes from the sale of lambs. Dairy sheep farmers have three sources of income: lambs, wool, and milk (or dairy products). Some farmers receive income by leasing their sheep out for grazing. Some sheep are raised for biomedical purposes (research, blood, etc.).