Great day for a Spring Sheep Workshop

The 2014 Spring Sheep Workshop was held at the Holly Neaton farm near Watertown. Over 40 attendees got to tour Holly’s facilities and hear from several speakers on sheep health and management strategies.

Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School now open for registration

Participants 20 years of age or older who are interested in all aspects of sheep production, may now register for the July 13 – 16, 2014 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School to be held in Dixon, California. In addition to increasing participants’ knowledge and understanding of today’s changing livestock and meat producing industry, this year’s school, will focus on the less common by-products that come from lambs.

The program includes an extensive tour of the Superior Farms Dixon processing facility, and discussion on offal production, pelts, and ovine blood collected for research purposes. Dr. Melissa VanLaningham, Director of Food Science at Superior Farms, will serve as School Coordinator.

Limited to 25 students, school participants will tour a nearby rendering facility, a retail grocery market and a pet food packaging facility.

There is no fee to apply; though if accepted, each attendee must submit a registration fee of $200 for meals, lodging and tour-related expenses. Participants are responsible for their own travel. For school agenda and electronic registration form, visit our website. For more information, email or call the NLFA office at 503.364.5462.

There is no fee to apply. Complete your application form (pdf) and submit it electronically no later than May 3, 2014. For question or more information, call the NLFA office at 503.364.5462 or email us.
Last chance to get in the Directory

If you have not yet paid your 2014 MLWPA dues, please send them in as soon as possible in order to continue to receive the newsletter, information on sheep events and to be included in the membership directory. Family dues are $40 per year ($110 for 3 years), $30 for Friend of the Industry (no sheep). Make checks payable to MLWPA and send to Glenette Sperry, 31460 Quinlan Ave, Center City, MN 55012. If you are not sure if your dues are current, please email Jeremy (jeremy.geske@gmail.com).

Have you completed your Green Star Farms self-evaluation yet?

Help prevent harmful regulations. MLWPA has been advocating on your behalf, but we need your help. The simplest, fastest and safest way for you to help is by joining the growing number of farms who have completed the Green Star Farms self-evaluation. Click here to get started.

Twenty minutes is all it takes. It’s fast, easy and confidential. Take the Green Star Farms initiative self-evaluation today. For more information contact Jeremy Geske at 612-756-1200 or by e-mail.

Shepherd’s Harvest Festival

May 16th - 18th 2014

Friday, May 16 Classes only
Sat. May 17 9:00 – 5:00
Sun. May 18th 10:00 – 4:00

Admission is $5.
Ages 8 and under are free.

Washington County Fairgrounds are located just east of Lake Elmo, MN at the intersection of Washington County Rd 15 & Highway 5.

View Directions and Maps

Please note: Dogs are not allowed at the festival.

Classes, More Classes!

Last year’s experiment of Friday classes was a big success; much bigger than we imagined. So we are going to continue it this year and add a bigger curriculum.

Our guest teacher for 2014 is Patsy Sue Zawistoski. And our Saturday night event is a talk on antique spinning wheels given by Andrea Myklebust, 7 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. We’ll see you there!

Classes, More Classes!

Fleece, Fiber and Family

The fairgrounds are filled with music, food, artisans and animals.

Events include Minnesota’s largest fleece competition, sheep shearing, fleece skirting demos, book signings and more.

Families enjoy the sheep and goats in the barn and this year there will be a new Farm Work Stock Dog Trial!

There’s a lot of room to picnic—weather permitting!