

June 15, 2009

Sheep Updates

By Dennis DeWitt, ISU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

“What works for my sheep operation may work for yours!” sheep tour will be on Saturday, June 27 beginning at the Community Center, 225 Main Street, Sanborn, Iowa. Registration for the tour begins at 9:45 A.M. We will group persons together to minimize the number of vehicles driving on the tour. Two sheep operations will be toured in the morning, returning to the Community Center, Sanborn for lunch and then tour two additional sheep operations Saturday afternoon.

The four sheep producer farms on the tour vary from 75-550 ewes and will offer drastically different options ranging from almost all dry lot to mostly all pasture system; from all old worn out buildings to new hoop structures; and from primarily commercial ewe lamb marketing to all market lamb sales. These four sheep producers are using 11 different sheep breeds also. Whether you are new or inexperienced with sheep or a lifetime producer of lamb there will be multiple opportunities to learn something new to improve your sheep flock profitability. That is our guarantee to you!

The producers will share what works in their operation may work for yours. Dr. Dan Morrical, ISU Extension Sheep Specialist, Dr. Kris Kohl, ISU Extension Ag Engineer and Dennis DeWitt, ISU Extension Livestock Specialist will be present to answer sheep producer questions about breeding, feeding, weaning and improving the environment in facilities, equipment and handling to make economical enhancements to reduce cost and labor to improve profits.

The Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers Association and Iowa State University Extension are hosting the tour with financial support from the Iowa Sheep and Wool Promotion Board. To assist in meal preparation please contact Joan Hoogendoorn at joan.hoogendoorn@gmail.com so we have enough lamb prepared for lunch. There will be a minimal fee for lunch payable at the door. Contact DeWitt at dewitt@iastate.edu or 712.260.0019 for questions regarding the tour. Listen to KICD-107.7 FM or KIWA-105.3 FM radio stations if there is an inclement weather question.

Mark your calendars for an “Innovative National Sheep Event” on Saturday, August 1 during the Center of the Nation National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) at the Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, Iowa. Educational seminars begin at 9:30 A.M. and will focus on how to use NSIP to enhance your flock’s productivity. In addition to the educational opportunity, this is a one stop-shopping opportunity for purebred whiteface, blackface and hair sheep in a single location on a single day backed by NSIP EPDs for true genetic performance beginning at 1:00 P.M.