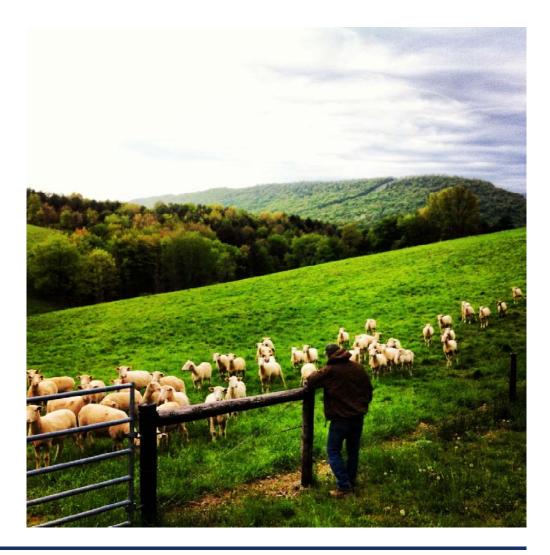


Impact of Sheep and Wool Growers in Agriculture

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What's New With Sheep?



What's New With Sheep

- Overview of PA Sheep Production
- Genetic Selection Tools
- Wool Processing
- The New Mowers and Weed Eaters
- Ethnic Markets
- Challenges





PA Sheep Production

- 3590 Sheep operations
- \$9.5 million in sales
- 64,072 sheep sold
- 58,459 breeding ewes
- 96,648 total inventory



- Ranked 17th nationally in sales
- Ranked 5th nationally in number of operations and 15th in inventory



County Rankings for Sheep Inventory

- 1st Washington
- 2nd Lancaster
- 3rd York
- 4th Bedford
- 5th Greene





Genetic Selection Tools

- What you see is what you get
 - $_{\circ}$ Maybe
 - o Maybe not





Genetic Selection Tools

- National Sheep Improvement Program
- LambPlan
- Estimated Breeding Values
 - Genetic linkages for performance





Estimated Breeding Values

- Growth
- Milk production
- Lambing percentage
- Lamb survival
- Wool quality
- Muscling
- Fatness





Impact of Genetic Selection Tools?

- Faster growing lambs
- More lambs born
- Higher quality wool
- Higher quality meat
- Efficiency and profitability





Wool Processing

- Superwash
 - o Machine washable
 - Chargeurs in Jamestown, SC
- Military garments
- Fine wools
 - Merino





Wool Products

Which sweater would be less itchy?

Which fabric contains more wool?



The New Mowers and Weed Eaters

- Targeted grazing
- Hard to mow areas
- Weed control







Ethnic Markets

- Lamb size matched to holiday
- Roast like a turkey
- Intact animals
- No blemishes





Challenges

- Predators
- Internal parasites
- Foot problems
- Smaller industry











How many sheep and lambs are killed each year in the United States?

250,000





What predator causes the largest losses?









Internal Parasites

What is the biggest issue with internal parasites?

Resistant Parasites





Internal Parasites

- Anemia
- FAMACHA
- Pasture Management
 - Rotations
 - $_{\circ}$ 3 inch forage





Foot Problems

- Footrot
- Foot scald
- Zactran





Smaller Industry

- Infrastructure
 - Equipment and supplies
 - $_{\circ}$ Veterinary care
 - Medications





Efforts to Increase Sheep Numbers

- Let's Grow Campaign
- Production Efficiencies
 - 12 Best Practices



- Penn State Sheep Home Study Course
- Shepherds Symposium
- Other Field Days and Workshops



Support American Lamb

- Ask for American Lamb at restaurants
- Buy lamb from local producer
- Wear wool



