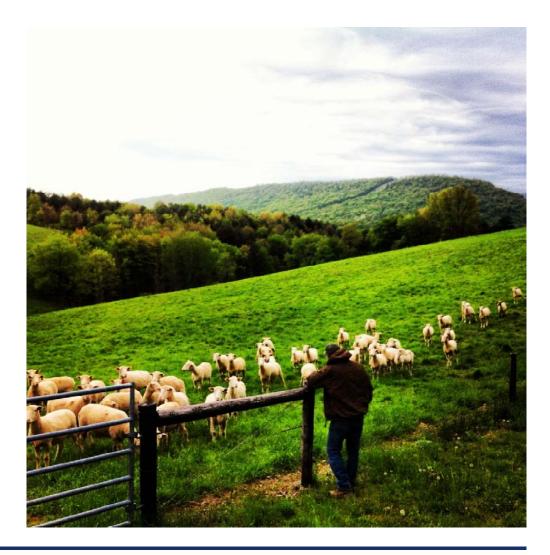


## Impact of Sheep and Wool Growers in Agriculture

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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 17<sup>th</sup> nationally in sales
- Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> nationally in number of operations and 15<sup>th</sup> in inventory



## **County Rankings for Sheep Inventory**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Washington
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lancaster
- 3<sup>rd</sup> York
- 4<sup>th</sup> Bedford
- 5<sup>th</sup> 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



