



News

from the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office
1009 Twilight Trail, Suite 121, Frankfort, KY 40601
502/352-2434 info@kysheepandgoat.org

Associations to share annual meeting during Sheep and Goat Month

FRANKFORT, Ky. — FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky Governor Steven Beshear has proclaimed October Sheep and Goat Month in Kentucky in recognition of the Commonwealth's fastest-growing agricultural industries.

"Kentucky's sheep and goat industries have made great strides in recent years," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Many Kentucky farmers have turned to sheep and goat production to offset the loss of tobacco income and complement the Commonwealth's cattle industry. I am pleased that goats and sheep have become major players in Kentucky agriculture."

"It's exciting to see Kentucky's sheep and goat producers being recognized for the role they play in Kentucky agriculture," said Richard VanSickle, president of the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association. "This honor recognizes that sheep and goats are valuable industries to the state."

The Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the Kentucky Goat Producers Association will hold their first joint annual meeting in Muhlenburg County on October 25, 2008. The meeting will take place at the Muhlenburg County Ag and Convention Center near Powderly, KY.

"This promises to be an exciting event because there's a lot to be excited about in the small ruminant community," according to Ray Bowman, Executive Director of the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office. "My challenge to producers is to not stand on the sidelines and watch, but to become actively involved with these associations and the progress the industries are enjoying."

Keynoting the day's activities will be Margo Hale, an Agriculture Specialist with NCAT/ATTRA-The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service. Her topic will be "Don't Miss the Target – Planning for Farm Success." Margo's background is in dairy cattle, but she married into a family of goat producers. She and husband Josh live in Northwest Arkansas on a small farm where they have meat goats and hair sheep.

Kentucky Goat Producers Association president Shawn Harper, an associate professor of adult agriculture at the Western Kentucky Community and Technical College, will also speak on Quality Assurance for Sheep and Goats and Dr. Debbie Reed will present an overview of the Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center.

Other speakers for the day will include Dr. Debra Aaron, Dr. Robert Harmon and Shaun Jackson from the University of Kentucky; Dr. Kenneth Andries from Kentucky State University; and Tess Caudill, Sheep and Goat Marketing Specialist with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Registration for the meeting is \$10 for adults, which includes a lamb and goat lunch and a trade show. Children under 12 will be admitted free. Following lunch, meeting attendees will be treated to the "Make It With Wool" style show.

For additional information, contact the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office at 502-352-2434 or e-mail info@kysheepandgoat.org.