



September 25, 2017

Dear Sheep Producers and Friends,

We are planning to hold the 2017 Sheep Management Tour on the weekend of October 21-22, traveling to the southeastern corner of the state. Enclosed is a copy of the trip itinerary as of today. We will gather at the Plaza Inn Restaurant in Mt. Victory for breakfast at 7:00 am on Saturday, October 21 at 491 S. Main Street, Mt. Victory. They have a breakfast buffet for us with a cost of \$7.95 in the main part of the restaurant. Juice is included on the buffet, but coffee and gratuity are extra. The restaurant is located on the south edge of Mt. Victory on State Route 31. After our group breakfast and short meeting, we will begin our trip to southeast Ohio. The plan is to leave cars parked in the south parking lot of the restaurant and then travel the rest of the tour by rental vans.

The cost of the rental vans will be approximately \$30.00 per person to cover the cost of the vans and fuel. We will collect the \$30.00 at our breakfast meeting to cover the cost of the vans and gasoline. This, of course is dependent on the number of people riding and sharing the cost of the vans. This hopefully will eliminate the need for driving and parking concerns. As in the past, participants will be responsible for their own hotel room and meals. We will have disposable plastic shoe covers for bio-security on the farms that we visit.

Overnight lodging will be at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, located in Marietta. The address of the hotel is 970 Pike Street, Marietta, OH 45750. The hotel reservation phone number is (740) 760-1515, and refer to the Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association group rate. The room rate is \$94.00 plus tax for our block of 10 rooms. This brand new hotel offers free high speed, wireless Internet access throughout our hotel, a 24 hour business center for all your business related needs, 24 hour fitness center and a 24 hour indoor heated pool, and free Express Start Breakfast.

I have included the tour plans for your information. More detailed plans will be sent out to participants later. Hopefully most of you have already marked the date on your calendar. Make sure you call the hotel and let them know you are with the Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association when you book your reservation. They are holding a block of rooms until October 11 for our group. Those interested in going on this Hardin County OSU Extension Sheep Tour also need to call Madelyn Lowery at (419) 673-3291 or (567) 674-6535 so that we know how many vans to rent.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Badertscher

Extension Educator
Agriculture & Natural Resources



2017 Hardin County Sheep Management Tour Highlights

● Highlights on Saturday, October 21

7:00 am – Plaza Inn Restaurant

491 S. Main Street, Mt. Victory, Ohio 43340: (937) 354-2851

Meet as a group for \$7.95 breakfast buffet. Enjoy a good meal while becoming acquainted with the group, and discuss the day's plans and arrangements.

Collect \$30.00 per person for vans/gas.

12:00 pm – Brady Campbell Farm

Brady is the new OSU Extension Sheep Team program coordinator. We plan to eat a pulled pork lunch (they are also swine producers) at his farm and then see his sheep operation. They produce commercial lambs using purebred Lincolns, Texels, and crossbred ewes.

2:00 pm – Waterford Farm

Arrangements are being made to visit a commercial Dorset operation in the Waterford area. This management system includes fall lambing with rotational grazing.

3:30 pm – Watertown Farm

Arrangements are being made to visit another commercial Dorset operation in the Watertown area. This sheep producer also is a beef cattle feeder who combines a commercial operation with the use of Hampshire crossbreds to produce market lambs.

5:00 pm – Check into Holiday Inn Express & Suites

970 Pike Street, Marietta, OH 45750: (740) 760-1515

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6:30 pm – Dinner in historic Marietta. Take time to enjoy the sights near the river as we hope to find a dinner location that is relaxing and provides a nice dinner experience.



● **Highlights on Sunday, October 22**

7:00 am – Free Hot Breakfast at the Hotel

8:00 am - Sunday Morning Devotional with Mark Badertscher (*optional*)

8:30 am – Group meeting and Check out of Hotel

10:00 am – Burkhart-Mason Farm (Marietta)

With a name like this, you know this commercial sheep breeder in the Marietta area will have an operation to provide ideas and production methods to consider. More details on this farm and the others will be provided to participants in a follow-up letter.

12:00 pm – Lunch

4:00 pm – Return to Plaza Inn Restaurant

491 S Main St, Mt. Victory, Ohio 43340: (937) 354-2851

Pick-up vehicles and return home.

**We may decide to do some historic tours as part of this trip such as seeing the Big Muskie and some river attractions. Details were not available yet at the time of mailing this letter but will be added to a follow-up letter sent to those who plan to attend this year's tour.*



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