



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Hardin County Extension News Release

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Sheep Tour Sites Provide Variety

by Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension Educator

Hardin County - The Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association will be touring four sheep farms and one sheep industry related location as part of the annual Hardin County Sheep Management Tour being held October 25-26. This year a group of active and retired sheep producers will travel to sites in central and eastern Ohio. They will be hearing about new or different philosophies of raising and marketing sheep and wool. An emphasis on the trip will be innovative and interesting ideas, which help in the management of day-to-day production chores as well as finding improved ways of accomplishing tasks.

The group will meet at a restaurant for breakfast to go over the weekend's plans, and then travel to Marengo to visit the Loeffler Lamb Company. This sheep farm is operated by Scott Loeffler and has Polypay lambs that are raised on grass, legumes, and forbs that are grown on this farm. Loeffler Lamb Company does not use routine antibiotics or growth hormones, and their lamb is processed locally.

The group will then travel to Trinway to visit Jim Roman's Suffolk sheep farm. The Suffolk breed is a large framed sheep that have large lambs used for market purposes. Jim Roman showed sheep at the Ohio State Fair for many years. After visiting this farm, the group will travel to the original mansion property where Merino sheep first arrived in the United States from Spain before the Civil War.

The Kirsten and Jason Hatfield sheep farm will be the next stop on the tour. Hatfields have both Dorset sheep and cattle at their farm located near Zanesville. The unique practice that will be discussed at this location is the fall lambing of half of their flock. They also raise daylilies on their farm.

After spending the night in Zanesville, the second day of the Hardin County Sheep Management Tour will include a visit to The Wilds. This is a 9,000 plus acre wildlife preserve which is home to

rare and endangered species from around the globe living in open range habitats. This park, which has transformed wildlife conservation practices, was once devoted to strip mining. An enclosed two-hour bus tour includes such animals as African Rhinos, giraffes, cheetahs, deer, and goats among others.

The final stop on the tour will be the Daryl Clark sheep farm. Clark is a retired Extension agent from Muskingum and Noble County. He is the current president of the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and is also on the Ohio Sheep and Wool Board. He hosted Ohio Sheep Day on his farm in the past and is noted for his advanced use of grazing practices on his land.

Anyone interested in participating in this year's Hardin County Sheep Management Tour can contact the OSU Extension office for more information. Reservations need to be made with the hotel and by contacting Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association member Madelyn Lowery at 419-673-3291 by Friday, October 10.