

W.Va. Purebred Sheep and Goat Breeders Release Record Sale Results

The 62nd West Virginia Purebred Sheep and Goat Breeders Sale in Petersburg, West Virginia had amazing participation from across the state of West Virginia as well as Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Ohio. The officers and board members are proud of the growth that the sale experienced over the past several years. Progress is due to the combined efforts of many individuals, sheep and goat producers and state organizations working together.

The event began on Thursday evening with the weighing of market lambs and goats. Each and every animal was thoroughly inspected by W.Va. Dept. of Agriculture personal for health purposes and the sifting committee determined each animal was of high enough quality to show and sell. A very tasty meal was enjoyed by exhibitors and sponsored by Cold Springs Dorset Farm from Moorefield, WV. Carols Place furnished colorful flowers for the show ring.

The Supreme Champion Ram over all breeds was a yearling North Country Ram selected by Judge Brad Kasler from Amesville, Ohio and was consigned by Martin and Julie MacQueen of Covington, Virginia. The MacQueens are veteran North Country breeders. The ram broke record sales, selling for \$2,000 to Terry and Cindy Woods, a commercial lamb producer of Criders, Virginia. The bidding was brisk and the ring men could barely keep up. It was evident the sheep industry was healthy and thriving in the eastern part of the country as the buyers followed the enthusiasm of the auctioneer, John Spiker and son David. The next North Country Yearling Ram consigned by long time breeder Ron Fletcher, Cabin Run Farms, Middlebourne, WV also set new records. It sold for \$1,650 to William Lemmon from New Freeport, Pa. Both rams made history by topping North Country National Sale highs.

A Suffolk Wether Sire consigned by Dominion Livestock from Staunton, VA sold for \$1,550 to Rachael Blosser of Burgettstown, PA. With no lack of quality two Suffolk yearling rams were sold by Jerry and Lucy Kimble of Oak Hill Farm, Cabins, WV which brought \$575 and \$525. Auville Suffolk's and Club Lambs, Mt. Sydney, VA sold a \$700 Ram lamb to Stony Meadows Farm, Roanoke, WV Rapid bidding continued into the ewe sales with the Supreme Champion Crossbred Ewe Lamb bred by Walnut Hill from Hedgesville, WV and selling locally to Cottage Hill Suffolk's for \$550. The champion and reserve club goat also set a new record by selling for \$775 and \$525 to Spring Run Farm of Dorcas, WV. These kids were a Cooper Farms consignment from Maysville, W.Va. The Supreme Champion Doe owned by Hickory Springs Farm Jane Lew, WV went to Steve Christopher of Albright, WV for \$500.

Twenty superior club lambs sold for an average of \$274 with McNeill Suffolk and Club Lambs from Buckeye, W.Va. topping the sale at \$550 and purchased by Outlaw Club Lambs, Marlinton, W.Va. The champion club lamb was exhibited by Sponaugle Suffolk's from Grottoes, Va. and sold for \$475. Long time consignor and owner of Sponaugle Suffolk's, John Sponaugle and family of Grottoes, VA received the Best Consignment Award. This plaque is presented annually by Townsend Livestock Equipment Sales, Franklin, Indiana. Pam Sponaugle also won the best in show photo contest. The youth winner was Robbie Curry Doddridge County.

Brad Smith, WVU Extension Agent and Small Animal Ruminant Specialist organized a Sheep Skill-a-thon and Youth Judging Contest which had over 60 participants. The winning team was from Berkeley County and high individual was Jennifer Friend from Braxton County. Farm Credit of the Virginias presented all youth participants with WVPS Breeder t-shirts. Dr. Keith InsKeep, Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences West Virginia University spoke to the crowd on using the Eazi-Breed Cidr-G for Out of Season Breeding in Ewes.

Mike Riffle from Jane Lew, WV barbequed Fresh American Lamb with the aroma settling through the barns, only a few could resist the tasty meal prepared by Marsha Rotruck and crew. Many enjoyed refreshments and food prepared by the local 4-H Club.

Mr. Jim Baxter with R.F.S., Marlinton, W.Va. and Townsend Equipment Sales, Franklin Indiana came with their usual line of equipment and supplies for sale to local farmers. Joe Viola, Horse Show Run, W.Va. stayed busy sharpening clipper blades, repairing hand pieces and hand shears.

40 consignors exhibited and sold 144 Sheep and Goats which averaged \$405-- totaling \$58,380. 115 buyers from VA, WV, MD, PA, OH, and NC registered for numbers.

Don't miss the WV Performance Tested Ram Sale with 30 rams on test. Performances data can be check out at www.sheepandgoats.wvu.edu or call 304-874-3561. An educational session is planned for 9:00, a meal at 12:00 with the sale following.

It was a memorable day for the sheep industry in West Virginia. A good day was had by all in attendance.