

Hardin County Extension News Release

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Indiana Sheep Tour

Hardin County – A sheep production tour of Indiana has been planned for Ohio Sheep Producers the weekend of Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23. The tour will originate from Findlay, Ohio with a breakfast meeting at Smokin’ Buckeye BBQ (formerly Southside Restaurant). Producers and other tour participants will then park their cars and load into vans provided by the Ohio Sheep and Wool Program to head to Indiana. Along the way, they will visit sheep farms and other sheep industry locations to learn production and marketing tips for lamb and wool.

The first farm stop will be at Richert Lincolns in New Haven, Indiana. Owner Anita Richert is on the Board of Directors for the National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Association and opens-up her ranch for tours and other educational events. Tour participants will receive hands-on training with wool evaluation and be able to judge Lincoln sheep in fleece. The Lincoln, sometimes called the Lincoln Longwool, is a breed of sheep from England. The Lincoln is the largest British sheep, developed specifically to produce the heaviest, longest, and most lustrous fleece of any breed in the world.

The next stop on the tour will be Hunter Nutrition in Brookston, Indiana. Hunter Nutrition, Inc. is a regional livestock feed manufacturer. The company formulates and makes highly fortified specialty livestock feeds. The business manufactures all forms of feed: Texturized, Pelleted, and Mineral/Premix. Available bagged, bulk bags, and in bulk. Hunter Nutrition has been manufacturing feeds since 1990. Owner Jeff Hunter has been involved with ruminant livestock nearly all his life and have been formulating livestock feeds since 1981.

The second day of the tour the group will visit Poe Hamps in Franklin, Indiana. Stanley Poe is the owner of this farm that raises Hampshire and Hampshire crosses. The farm has been in operation since 1945, utilizes hoop buildings, raises small grains and hay to feed their sheep, and conducts their own A.I. (artificial insemination) Day along with hosting several judging teams and tours each year. Currently they are in the middle of fall lambing season.

The final stop on the tour will be Viking Show Lamb and Genetics in Morristown, Indiana. As commercial and registered sheep breeders, Viking Lamb, LLC uses a highly-concentrated and systematic approach to ensure their flocks reach their full genetic potential. Their herds of rams, lambs, and ewes have been carefully selected and bred for superior genetics and performance based on longevity, milkability, mothering, soundness, records, and bloodlines. Owner Terry Knudson has expanded the farm business operations to be the sole lamb purveyor for the ever-expanding Cunningham Restaurant Group as they opened their 9th Bru Burger, Nesso (Italian restaurant), as well as other various restaurants.

The Ohio Sheep Production tour group will then return home after two days of educational tours. Producers who are interested in joining the group can contact Hardin County OSU Extension Educator Mark Badertscher at 419-767-6037 or badertscher.4@osu.edu for more information about how to join the tour. Also, interested producers can visit <https://go.osu.edu/ohiosheeptour> for more details. The tour is sponsored by the Ohio Sheep and Wool Program, which has provided a grant to cover transportation expenses. Tour participants will be responsible for their own hotel room and meals.