

**Maryland Sheep Breeders Association**  
**\*!!!! FALL SEMINAR DAY !!!! \***

**Saturday November 4, 2017**

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson, MD 20842

Lunch Included

MSBA Members: \$25 ~ Non-members: \$40

**Register to save your place:**

(online: [Marylandsheepbreeders.org/activities/calendar](http://Marylandsheepbreeders.org/activities/calendar)  
or RSVP to [stillpointfarmsheep@gmail.com](mailto:stillpointfarmsheep@gmail.com))

*by Wednesday November 1, 2017*

**PROGRAM**

**8:00 – 8:30 Check-in and Refreshments**

**8:30 – 9:55 Basic Lamb Necropsy - Techniques & Tips.**

*Dr. Margi Dunlap & Dr. Rosalind Hain*

This will be a practical hands-on session designed to provide shepherds the basics of how to do a systematic evaluation of lambs that have died on the farm. This will include conducting an external exam; a demonstration of how to properly open up the abdominal and chest cavities to evaluate organs for clues to causes of death; and discussion of when to consider sending the remains to a lab for more thorough investigation. For practical purposes, this session will be focused on lambs, though much of what is covered will be applicable to adult animals as well.

**10:00 – 10:40 Sheep Management & Record Keeping Tools -1: Using FlockFiler for Keeping and Using Computerized Records**

*Tom Hays*

*FlockFiler* is a software database tool for Windows and Macintosh computers designed to make it easy to store, work with, and ask questions of your sheep information. This includes records of health, breeding, pedigrees, weights, and much more. *FlockFiler* is available in a basic and affordable, *FlockFiler Lite* form, as well as an expanded *FlockFiler Pro* version. The developer Tom Hays will present *FlockFiler* and demonstrate some data entry, data searching, analysis, and reporting.

**10:45 – 11:45 Taking your Wool to a Mill: How to Prepare for Success.**

*Mary & Dwayne Singleton*

Your sheep are sheared and you want to have your wool processed at a fiber mill. This presentation will help sheep owners who wish to have their wool processed at a mill to understand what they need to know and do in order to get a good outcome: how to prepare your wool in advance, how to know the best or most realistic expectations for your type of wool, and understanding what services a mill can conduct for you. You may bring a raw fleece or sample for hands-on consideration (time permitting).

**11:45 – 12:30 LUNCH** *(provided)*

**12:30 – 1:10 Sheep Management & Record Keeping Tools-2**

*Andrew Keller*

This presentation will discuss a SARE farmer grant study using rate of gain to determine if lambs needed to be treated for parasites. Electronic identification (EID) tags, a digital scale head with Bluetooth capabilities, stock recorder (Shearwell data) and FarmWorks software were used to calculate the rate of gain (ROG) in real-time. We will discuss the time-savings for producers and comparison of rate of gain to lamb FAMACHA scores. In addition, we will discuss the benefits and other matters lamb producers will want to consider if they are interested in using this method for their flock.

**1:10 – 2:20 Evaluating Hay for Your Flock.**

*Jeffrey Semler*

You are looking for hay for your flock for the winter; what criteria do you use to choose and purchase it? How do you assess the quality and value of the hay you find available. What should you be looking for in terms of the makeup and condition of the hay? How do you know if the hay you're looking at is right for your sheep? Is cheap hay really cheap (what are the trade-offs)? What is the difference between first and second cutting? Jeff Semler, will provide expert insights and hands-on hay evaluation practice. Participants may bring hay samples (full "flake") to be examined in this session.

**2:30 – 3:25 Over-the-counter (OTC) Medications & Treatments for Sheep: When and How to Use Which Ones.**

*Dr. Rosalind Hain*

On the shelves of your favorite farm store you may be faced with a wide array of OTC medications and treatments available for use on your sheep: antibiotics (injectable and ingestable); wound care sprays, ointments & liquids; treatments for scours, pregnancy toxemia, hypocalcemia, vitamin mixes, etc., etc., etc.! How do you decide which to use for what? Which ones should you have in your on-farm arsenal?

**3:30 – 4:45 Basic Sheep Evaluation.**

*Dr. Margi Dunlap*

You are buying a sheep and want to be sure you are checking all the right things before making a commitment. Or you are buying a ram who may influence your flock for a long time to come. Whatever you want the sheep for, how do you go about examining an individual animal to evaluate it for basic sound structure and health? Hands on practical session evaluating sheep on the hoof.

**4:45 – 5:00 Open Discussion & Wrap-up**