

PRESS RELEASE:

WOW!! 2009 ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW

By Deb Hopkins, Show Chairman

The 16th Annual All-American Junior Show was recently held at the Darke County Fairgrounds in Greenville, OH from July 3rd-5th and WOW!! Is the only way to describe the event. 2009 was the largest show to date with 345 exhibitors entering 1916 head! There were 23 states represented with 13 breeds of sheep participating in the show which also featured the 2009 National Junior Tunis Show.

The total numbers entered by breed are as follows: Southdowns, 378; Hampshires 290; Polled Dorsets 246; Shropshires 218; Oxfords 191; Tunis 122; Natural Coloreds 106; Montadales 99; Cheviots 78; Shetlands 68; Horned Dorsets 66; Dorpers 34 and Columbias 20 head. The quality and size of many breed shows were greater than the national junior shows held in Louisville.

The All-American Show is a sheep show where the major focus is on the exhibitors and their families. Even though many awards are given out over the course of the weekend the show is designed for our junior exhibitors and their families. The exhibitors participated in many events besides the breeding sheep and market lambs shows including the 3-on 3 basketball tournament, pizza party, skil-a-thon, judging contest, ice cream social, lamb camp, wool show, dance, subway grinder dinner, promotional contests, donut and milk breakfasts, individual and team showmanship competitions and scholarship programs. Unfortunately, due the cold and rainy weather on Saturday afternoon the pool party was cancelled but it probably turned out to be a blessing in disguise as we did have to show late Saturday night even though we had three rings going on that day. But that was a great problem to have!!

This show would not have been possible without the help of the many volunteers that helped us out during and prior to the show. A **BIG THANK-YOU** goes out to all the following people:

-Ohio Volunteers: Pat Myers; Roger High; Dave, Wes & Mary Evans; Vickie Wilcox; Jackie Barns; Doug Armspough & his 4-H members; Rob Sando; Fred Heaton; John & Irene Bruns; Jim Brandt; David High; Dale Hunke; Susan Shultz; Melanie Barkley (PA import); Jenni Shoffner, Molli Barnes; Louise Dunham; Sam & Pat Wiford; Sallie Evans; Becky Saylor; Kara McCarthy; Gina Davis; Kelly Larrick; Amy Frost; Joy McCarthy; Scott Peters; Kathy Hupman

-Show Volunteers:

Judges: Eric Bruns, Evan Snyder, Ed Julian

Ring Stewards: Lee Ann Hall; Doug Gehring

Judging Contest: Megan Bishop, Amy Radunz

Skil-A-Thon: Pat & Sam Wiford and their many station attenders

Basketball Tournament: Alan Claghorn and refs Gary Saylor, Aaron Crome, Jeff Held, Jed Van Horn, Bill Bryant & Steve Marzchak and hoop assemblers Rachael Burnett & Mary Stephens

Show Clerk: Emmie Claghorn

Photographer: Kaye Weaber and her ass't. Donna Woolam

National Breed Secretaries: Gary Jennings; Becky Peterson, Harry & Mary Bloom; Jeff Ebert; Doug Gehring

Wool Show: Alex McClure and the Ohio Mid-States guys

Promotion Salesperson: Marie Gillett

Market Lamb Weighers & Classifiers: Jerry Fitch & Darrell Howard

Announcer: Dave Trotter

Right Hands: Shetland breeders Nyla & her husband & family

Executive Committee: Carrie Taylor, Karey Claghorn, Millie Brown, Jo Bernard, Stan Poe and newly appointed member Barb Bishop

A thank-you also goes out to Daryl Riffle, Darke Fairgrounds Manager, Greenville, Ohio and his staff, especially Ken and George for all their help. Of course there were many others who helped out as needed during the show and thank-you to you also for everything!

The All-American Committee would once again like to thank all of the National Breed Associations and Ohio State Breed Associations, & Ohio Sheep Improvement Association for their financial support! Many individual donors and sheep breeders across the country supported the show in one way or another by sponsoring classes, selling ewe lambs, buying raffle tickets, donating items to be auctioned off, donating raffle items, donating gift baskets, donating door prizes, and attending the Spaghetti Supper at the Ohio Sales May weekend. It was truly an organized cooperative effort and **THANK-YOU** to you all!

Plans are under way for next year's show, which will be taking place at the Michigan State Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing, MI from July 2-4, 2010. If anyone is interested in helping out with the show in any way or has any ideas please feel free to contact Deb Hopkins (401)647-4676, email: cdcdorset@cox.net . As you can see it takes a lot of willing people to assist and we welcome all. Look forward to seeing everyone next year in Michigan!