

Sheep and Wool Festival slated for Sept. 11-13

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One of the Midwest's major events for sheep producers and fiber enthusiasts is set for Sept. 11-13.

It's a weekend of activities including entertainment, shopping, and education and it's all at Jefferson Fair Park, Jefferson.

The Shepherds' Auction to be held in the activity center, at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, will help fund the scholarship program and educational seminars. There will also be many food options available. In addition to the kitchen in the activity center, River's Edge, Charlie's, Ayers Tropical Sno and the FFA Alumni with their ice cream snacks, Crème de la Crepe with everything from "Crepizza" to Crepes with peanut butter and jelly to pizza and funnel cakes.

A new marketing opportunity for sheep producers is being offered this year, called the Stock Exchange. The newly established venue provides buyers and sellers an inexpensive market place for private treaty sales of all types of sheep. There will also be three days of wool classes taught by 37 nationally recognized instructors. Wisconsin's Make It With Wool competition will be held on Saturday and is the place to see designers of all ages compete for a chance in the national spotlight. Watch the judging results in the 'Best of Wisconsin' fashion show at 3 p.m. There will be a display of hooked rugs sponsored by the Cream City Rug Hookers and the Wisconsin Quilt History Project, Inc. A collection of wool quilts and wall hangings will be shown on Saturday & Sunday, sponsored by the WI Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts.

This year there will be a special day for kids called "Woolly Y." There will also be the Crook & Whistle Stock Dog Trial, sheep shearing demonstrations, sheep shows, lead class competition including the costume class, classes for new and experienced shepherds, fleece show and sale, Sunday demonstrations of traditional fiber arts by the Marshall Pleasant Spinners, and daily stock dog shows.

The Country Store will feature over 130 exhibitors from across the country, offering everything from baskets to drop spindles; yarn to jewelry; rug looms to roving. New expanded shopping hours include Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m, and Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year there will be 11 full teams who will be walking as fast as they can and knitting at the same time. It will be held Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 per person, weekend passes \$15. Kids 8 and under free. Parking free. Camping available on the festival grounds. Registration and entry forms, plus complete festival information is available online at www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com.