

# J - WOOL FLEECE & FIBER SHOW

Superintendent - Kris & Greg Thorne (443-386-0244)

Judging: Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 1:00 PM

**PURPOSE:** To increase producer awareness of wool quality, encourage the production of better wool and educate the public about wool.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The exhibitor must own the sheep at time of shearing to enter the fleece. No more than 3 fleeces from one exhibitor in each class.

- Fleece must have been shorn since 2023.
- Fleeces should not be more than 12 months growth except for yearlings, where 16 months growth is allowed. Minimum staple length of 2.5" is strongly recommended.
- Fleeces should be clean, free of chaff, burrs, tags, second cuts and coting. All fleeces must be skirted.
- Fleeces must be flesh side out and tagged with weight, breed, sex, and number of months of growth. Fleeces may be tied or untied. Untied fleeces should be placed in clear plastic trash bags.
- A producer is eligible for no more than two money awards in any one class.
- Fleeces must be delivered to the new Exhibition Annex Building on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> between 6 and 8 pm or on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> between 9 am and 12 Noon.
- Fleeces may be moved to a different class if the judge deems necessary. In any dispute, the decision of the Superintendent and Judge shall be final.
- Fleeces will be judged at 1 pm, Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- All fleeces will be judged on hand spinning quality. Fleeces will be examined for strength, length, handle, and cleanliness (yield) as well as overall uniformity of the fleece.
- Judges will award only such premiums as they think proper, as the merit of the fleece may warrant. Judges have the right to award a lower prize, or no prize at all, at their discretion.
- Exhibits must be removed on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> between 11 am and 1 pm. Fleeces entered in the Montgomery County Fair may be removed Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> by prior arrangement with the Superintendent. All unclaimed entries become the property of the Howard County Fair.

**DIVISIONS:** J01 – White Wool

J02 – Natural Colored Wool (Must contain at least 35% colored fibers)

Premiums for Classes 1 - 4 are: \$ 8.00 \$6.00 \$4.00 \$2.00

1. Fine - Fleeces with spinning counts of 64's -80's.(17-22 microns)  
Example: Merino, Rambouillet, Cormo.
2. Medium - Counts of 50's - 62's (22 - 31 microns).  
Example: Corriedale, Suffolk, Montadale, Tunis
3. Long - Counts of 36s - 48s (31 - 40 microns).  
Example: Romney, Border Leicester, Lincoln, Cotswold
4. Double Coated - Example: Icelandic, Karakul, Navajo-Churro, Scottish Blackface, Shetland
5. For both divisions J01 and J02, a Champion Fleece will be selected from all of the Blue Ribbon winners in that division, and a Champion Ribbon awarded.
6. An overall Grand Champion Fleece will be selected from the Champion Fleeces in Divisions J01 and J02. A Grand Champion Ribbon and trophy will be awarded.

**DIVISION J03:**

**7. Shepherd/Hand Spinner Basket**

Minimum of one pound of raw fiber (shorn since the 2023 fair) along with hand spun yarn produced from that fiber (minimum of 2 ounces), displayed in a basket. Include a description of the fleece (breed, sex, and number of months of growth), the technique used to spin the yarn, and its intended use. Exhibitor must own the animal at time of shearing and yarn must be spun by the exhibitor.

Premium for Class 7 is: \$25.00

**\*\*\*SPECIAL AWARD FOR WOOL FLEECE\*\*\***

***Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival - Trophy - Grand Champion Fleece***