



503 E NORTHTOWN ROAD, KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501-1999

SHEEP and MEAT GOAT TRAINING PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

If you are a vocational agriculture instructor, extension agent, or 4-H leader (or know someone that is), and are interested in learning more about sheep and meat goat production, you will be interested to learn of this important program made possible through a National Sheep Industry Improvement Center grant. A training program will be held December 2-3, 2005 in Kirksville, Missouri, prior to the Missouri Livestock Symposium. Thirty successful applicants will be awarded scholarships to participate in this training. The program is open to any agriculture instructor, extension agent, or 4-H leader in the U.S. with an interest in sheep or meat goats.

Topics to be addressed in the training include overview of the sheep and meat goat industries; breeds and breed variations of sheep and meat goats; feeding sheep and meat goats; sheep and meat goat management; sheep and meat goat breeding; sheep and meat goat health; forages for sheep and meat goats; selecting, fitting, and showing meat goats and sheep; resources for sheep and meat goat educators; facilities and handling equipment for sheep and meat goats; and innovative teaching ideas for sheep and meat goat educators. In addition, program participants will have the opportunity to attend the 2005 Missouri Livestock Symposium on the evening of December 2 and additional educational programming related to sheep and meat goats on Saturday, December 3.

Instructors for the Sheep and Meat Goat Training Program will be recognized leaders and experts in the sheep and meat goat industries. At the time of this press release the following instructors have been confirmed: Dr. Maurice Shelton, Texas A&M Emeritus; Dr. Frank Craddock, Texas A&M; Dr. Susan

Schoenian, University of Maryland; Dr. Joan Burke, USDA –ARS; DR. Micheal Salisbury, Angelo State University; Preston Faris, meat goat producer, Sonora, Texas; Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky; Jim Heggemeier, Platte City, Missouri; Dr. Mike Thonney, Cornell University, New York; and one more speaker still to be confirmed.

The Sheep and Meat Goat Training Program itinerary and details can be viewed at the Missouri Livestock Symposium website at <http://missourilivestock.com> (click on SMGTP Information). Additional information can be obtained by calling or e-mailing Bruce Lane at 660-665-9866 (lanen@missouri.edu – put SMGTP in the subject line) or Garry Mathes at 660-665-7049. Information at this site contains application form and details related to the application process, scholarship details, resources to be provided trainees as part of the program, and planning committee members.

Again, any vocational agriculture instructor, extension agent or 4-H leader with an interest in sheep and/or meat goats is encouraged to apply for this outstanding training program and unique opportunity. The program is intended to be of value and interest regardless of one's educational background or practical experience with these species.

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