

FROM THE DESK OF: Bruce Lane, University of Missouri Extension Livestock Specialist

DATE: September 8, 2005

SHEEP AND MEAT GOAT TRAINING PROGRAM BOASTS FULL CLASS

The December 2-3 Sheep and Meat Goat Training Program (SMGTP) will host participants from several States and the Virgin Islands! The training program has been made possible through monies provided by the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) and the Missouri Livestock Symposium (MLS).

Over 100 applicants applied for the 30 openings according to Garry Mathes, Chair of the 2005 Missouri Livestock Symposium and Sheep and Meat Goat Training Programs. Mathes said the committee was ecstatic with the response to the SMGTP. It was very difficult for the committee to select the 30 successful applicants because of the number of high quality applications. "It is apparent that the kind of program we developed resonates positively with a large audience nationwide!" Mathes also indicated that the response to the program means the Missouri Livestock Symposium Committee will look closely at applying for a similar NSIIC grant for 2006.

Mathes believes the interest in this program is due to the quality of the speakers being utilized in the program, the pragmatic nature of the topics and programming, and the fact there is a "real hunger" out there for good, sound information on both meat goats and sheep.

Mathes also says that even though the SMGTP has been limited to 30 participants, this does not mean that those with an interest in sheep and meat goats who did not get accepted to this year's program will be "left out in the cold". Mathes encourages anyone who has interest in sheep or meat goats, or other livestock species for that matter, to attend the Missouri Livestock Symposium on December 2-3, 2005. Many of the same speakers used in the SMGTP will also be speaking to producers in the Sheep and Meat Goat Sections of

the Symposium. In addition we will have other nationally recognized speakers on horses, beef cattle, forages, crops, and stock dogs. "The Missouri Livestock Symposium is a producer driven, producer oriented program that should be a major hit with all who attend," Mathes said. The Symposium also features Orion Samuelson on Friday night, Wylie and the Wild West on Saturday night, and a great agriculturally related trade show. The Missouri Livestock Symposium opens its doors at 4 p.m. on Friday, December 2. Doors open Saturday morning, December 3 at 8 a.m. A complete program lineup can be viewed at the Missouri Livestock Symposium website at <http://missourilivestock.com>. Call Garry Mathes 660-341-6625 cell or 660-665-7049 home for more information. Or you can call the Adair County Extension Center at 660-665-9866 or e-mail Bruce Lane at lanen@missouri.edu (put MLS in the subject line).

No pre-registration or registration is required to attend the Missouri Livestock Symposium. Special room rates are available at the MLS headquarters motel Days Inn in Kirksville, MO, if you indicate you are coming for the Missouri Livestock Symposium. The Days Inn phone number is 660-665-8244.

The 30 successful applicants for the 2005 Sheep and Meat Goat Training Program are:

(list names and state they are from here)

Instructors for the SMGTP are: Dr. Frank Craddock, Texas A&M; Dr. Maurice Shelton, Texas A&M (emeritus); Dr. Michael Thonney, Cornell University; Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky; Dr. Joan Burke, USDA-ARS, Arkansas; Mr. Preston Faris, Sonora, Texas; Mr. Jim Heggemeier, Platte City, Missouri; Mr. Dwayne Hurliman, Oklahoma; Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland; and Dr. Micheal Salisbury, Angelo State University.