September 24, 2013

Dear Friends,

We are planning to hold the 2013 Sheep Management Tour on the weekend of October 26 & 27, traveling to the Mt. Hope area. Enclosed is a copy of the proposed itinerary, subject to confirming some of the plans. We will gather at Southside Family Restaurant for breakfast at 7:00 am at 3050 South Main Street, Findlay. The restaurant is located on the south edge of Findlay on State Route 68, just after the US 68/15 interchange. After our group breakfast in the Southside banquet room, we will travel to the University of Findlay Animal Sciences Center for a tour. The plan is to leave cars parked at the UF Animal Sciences Center parking lot and then travel the rest of the tour by rental vans.

The cost of the rental vans will be approximately $25 per person to cover the cost of the vans and fuel. This hopefully will eliminate the need for driving and parking concerns. As in the past, participants will be responsible for their own hotel room, meals, and disposable boots, if necessary.

Overnight lodging will be at the Comfort Inn located in Millersburg. The address of the hotel is 1102 Glen Drive Millersburg, OH 44654. The hotel phone number is 330-674-7400 or Toll Free: 877-411-7400. The Comfort Inn is holding 15 rooms for the Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association at the rate of $99.99 plus tax. Each room has two queen beds, but there is a $10.00 additional charge for each adult after the first two in a room. This hotel includes a free full breakfast, free wireless internet, and a heated indoor pool with a hot tub. Rooms include microwaves, refrigerators, flat screen televisions, and other amenities. Since this is the fall tourist season in Amish country, you must call to reserve your room before Monday, October 21.

I have included the tentative tour plans for your information. Some of the items still need to be confirmed, but this may give you an idea where we are heading for this fall’s Sheep Management Tour. Those interested in going along need to also call Madelyn Lowery at 419-673-3291, in order that we know how many vans to rent and so we can send you final tour details. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about this year’s tour.
2013 Hardin County
Sheep Management Tour Highlights

• *Highlights on Saturday, October 26*

**7:00 am - Southside Family Restaurant**
3050 South Main Street, Findlay, OH 45840: (419) 422-7031
Meet as a group for breakfast in the banquet room. Enjoy a good meal while becoming acquainted with the group, and discuss the day’s plans and arrangements.

**8:30 am - University of Findlay Animal Sciences Center**
14700 State Route 68, Findlay, OH 45840: (419) 422-8313
The University of Findlay has become one of the top animal science schools in the country. With the addition of the 31,000-square-foot Dr. C. Richard Beckett Animal Science Building, UF’s Center for Equine and Pre-Veterinary Studies provides the ultimate in hands-on learning experiences.

**11:30 am - Mrs. Yoder’s Kitchen**
8101 State Route 241, Mt. Hope, OH 44660: (330) 674-0922
Mrs. Yoder’s Kitchen offers diners with the authentic, delicious taste of Ohio’s Amish Country. From our family-style dinners to our hearty breakfast buffet, you won’t go hungry or broke at Mrs. Yoder’s. Some of our specialties include old fashioned fried mush, homemade sweet rolls, mouth-watering roast beef and juicy chicken. Once you taste our food, you’ll come back!

**1:00 pm – Mt. Hope Auction Tour**
8076 SR 241, Millersburg, OH 44654: (330) 674-6188
The Mt. Hope Auction hosts a variety of different sales throughout the year. Its livestock, hay and produce sales take place on a weekly basis, selling a range of livestock, hay, straw, ear corn, and firewood. The auction also holds several periodic sales, including the Mid-Ohio Draft Horse & Carriage Sale, Machinery Sale and the Mid-Ohio Alternative Bird and Animal sale. Each of these sales are held three times a year. The Auction stays busy with Special Dairy Sales, Back to Farm Stock Cow and Feeder Calf Sales, as well as its Dutch Harness/Friesian Sale held on the 1st Saturday of May. Also owned by the Mt. Hope Auction is the Farmers Produce Auction, 1 mile west of Mt. Hope. Sales begin in February and run into November providing fresh produce, flowers, and fall decoration items straight from the farm.

**3:00 pm – First Sheep Farm Stop**
*Details to be announced later.*
4:30 pm – Check into Comfort Inn Hotel
1102 Glen Drive Millersburg, OH 44654: (330) 674-7400
The Comfort Inn hotel is centrally located in the town of Millersburg, Ohio in Holmes County's Amish Country, home to one of the largest Amish communities in the world. This Millersburg, OH hotel is also a short drive away from popular attractions like the neighboring towns of Berlin, Charm, Walnut Creek, Mt. Hope, and Kidron.

6:00 pm – Dinner at Der Dutchman
4967 Walnut Street, Walnut Creek, OH 44687: (330) 893-2981
For the hard-working people of Holmes County, Ohio, eating is a simple pleasure, shared at family meals, times of fellowship, and celebrations. Der Dutchman Restaurant has been at the heart of this community and its food traditions for more than 30 years. Located in the center of Walnut Creek, Der Dutchman is a special destination for both townsfolk and tourists.

8:00 pm – Return to Comfort Inn Hotel
1102 Glen Drive Millersburg, OH 44654: (330) 674-7400
Watch the Ohio State vs. Penn State football game or relax at the hotel in the pool, hot tub, fitness center, or in the comfort of your own room.

- **Highlights on Sunday, October 27**

6:30 am – Free Hot Breakfast at the Hotel

8:00 am - Sunday Morning Devotional with Mark Badertscher (optional)

8:30 am – Check out of Hotel

10:00 am – Second Sheep Farm Stop
*Details to be announced later.*

11:30 am - Lunch
*Location in between 2nd and 3rd sheep farm stops.*

1:00 pm – Third Sheep Farm Stop
*Details to be announced later.*

2:30 pm – Return to University of Findlay Animal Sciences Center
Pick-up vehicles and return home.

Sincerely,

*Mark A. Badertscher*
Extension Educator
Agriculture & Natural Resources