Dear Sheep Producers and Friends,

We are planning to hold the 2018 Sheep Management Tour on the weekend of October 20-21, traveling to the northwestern corner of the state. Enclosed is a copy of the trip itinerary. We will gather at the Southside Family Restaurant in Findlay for breakfast at 7:30 am on Saturday, October 20 at 3050 South Main Street, Findlay. We will be meeting in their back room and ordering off the menu. The restaurant is located on the south edge of Findlay on State Route 68. After our group breakfast and short meeting, we will begin our trip to northwest Ohio. The plan is to leave cars parked in the University of Findlay Animal Sciences parking lot south of the restaurant and then travel the rest of the tour by rental vans.

The cost of the rental vans will be approximately $30.00 per person to cover the cost of the vans and fuel. We will collect the $30.00 at our breakfast meeting to cover this expense. This, of course is dependent on the number of people riding and sharing the cost of the vans. Using vans will hopefully will eliminate the need for driving and parking concerns. As in the past, participants will be responsible for their own hotel room and meals. We will have disposable plastic shoe covers for bio-security on the farms that we visit.

Overnight lodging will be at the Sauder Heritage Inn in Archbold. The address of the hotel is 22611 State Route 2, Archbold, OH 43502. The hotel reservation phone number is (800) 590-9755, and refer to the Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association group rate. The room rate is $107.00 plus tax for our block of 10 rooms. If we use less than 10 rooms, the rate is $117.00 plus tax. This seems to be a nice property with wide expansive areas for our group with woodwork décor. This family friendly hotel includes free wi-fi, swimming pool, hot tub, fitness center, and a complimentary breakfast. They also have a buffet restaurant which is famous in the area called The Barn which is $15.49 per person to accommodate our group if we are interested.

I have included the tour plans for your information. Hopefully most of you have already marked the date on your calendar. Make sure you call the hotel and let them know you are with the Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association when you book your reservation. They are holding a block of rooms for our group. Those interested in going on this Hardin County OSU Extension Sheep Tour also need to call Madelyn Lowery at (419) 673-3291 by October 17 so that we know how many vans to rent.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Badertscher
Extension Educator
Agriculture & Natural Resources
2018 Hardin County
Sheep Management Tour Highlights

● Highlights on Saturday, October 20

7:30 am – Southside Family Restaurant
3050 South Main Street, Findlay, OH: (419) 422-7031
Meet as a group in the back room for breakfast off the menu. Enjoy a good meal while becoming acquainted with the group, and discuss the day’s plans and arrangements. Collect $30.00 per person for vans and gas.

10:00 am - Kyle Dockery Farm
2834 Hicksville Edgerton Road, Edgerton, OH: (419) 298-3914
Kyle’s farm consists of 30 ewes with 3/4 being Rambouillet. His mother close by has 10 Merinos which they would also like us to visit. His parents are Mike and Paula Dockery. Kyle has been involved with sheep since grade school.

12:00 pm – Lunch in Bryan, Ohio

1:30 pm - Dana Missler Farm
13664 County Road H, Bryan, OH: (419) 212-0350
The Missler Farm consists of a 20 ewe commercial flock used primarily for club lambs. One of his three daughters received a Corriedale starter flock several years ago and has had much success showing recently, winning Reserve Champion at the Ohio State Fair.

3:30 pm – Roger Short Farm
08562 State Route 191, West Unity, OH: (419) 769-3230
The Short Farm consists of 400 head of Katahdins with a few Dorpers. They feed out several hundred feeder lambs and graze 130 acres. Roger has two sons, Wes and Tyler, who are also involved in the operation. Wes has a fence building business and he also has 18 head of Red Angus cows.

5:00 pm – Check into Sauder Heritage Inn
22611 State Route 2, Archbold, OH: (800) 590-9755
This hotel is very decorative with plenty of space to relax. It is a family friendly hotel that includes free wi-fi, swimming pool, hot tub, fitness center, and a complimentary breakfast.

6:00 pm – Dinner at The Barn Restaurant
22611 State Route 2, Archbold, OH: (800) 590-9755
The unique atmosphere and delicious home-style food make the Barn a great place to relax with family and friends. Their buffet boasts a hearty meal of Barn chicken, real mashed potatoes, delicious sides, a full salad bar and homemade soups. They also offer a full menu with many appetizers, salads, sandwiches and delicious entrees. Their homemade pies, dinner rolls and breads are baked fresh at their Doughbox Bakery adjacent to the Barn Restaurant.
Highlights on Sunday, October 21

7:00 am – Complimentary Breakfast at the Hotel

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

8:30 am – Group meeting and Check out of Hotel

10:30 am – Jordan Beck Farm
17372 County Road C, Wauseon, OH: (419) 575-3324
Jordan Beck’s farm consists of 30 club lamb ewes and a three acre pasture. He markets all lambs to 4-H and FFA projects. He began his club lamb operation in the year 2000, which started as an FFA project. He utilizes artificial insemination (AI) for all their breeding which they do right at their farm. His ewes lamb in December.

12:30 pm – Lunch in Wauseon

2:00 pm - Luke Ryan Farm
3320 Crissey Road, Monclova, OH: (419) 349-6619
Luke Ryan’s Sheep Farm consists of 100 ewes. Most are Purebred Suffolk and Hampshire with most of the lambs sold as club lambs. He has 20 recip ewes which are hair sheep. Luke is also getting started with some fine wool breeds. He utilizes both pasture and barn feeding. He teaches Agricultural Education and serves as an FFA advisor at Genoa High School for Penta Vocational School.

4:00 pm – Return to University of Findlay Animal Sciences parking lot
State Route 68 – Findlay, OH
Pick-up vehicles and return home.