

The **MSB Small Flock / Beginning Shepherd Committee** has three exciting sessions planned for 2010. So mark your calendars and plan to attend these free sheep/fleece sessions geared to help shepherds, whether their flocks are new or old, big or small, share ideas and learn effective methods of raising and enjoying their sheep.

1) Saturday, April 17, 2010. Sue Pufpaff - Pufpaff's Fiber Processing, 5038 E M-79 Hwy, Nashville, MI. 49073 will be the site of our first session. This is half way between Hastings and Nashville. Web site: <http://fibermill.yurtboutique.com>

We plan to start at 10:00 AM with Dr. Heather Ludlam's session on "**Lambing Basics**". Half of her session will be a PowerPoint presentation and the other half is hands-on. During the hands-on Heather uses an artificial uterus along with dead lamb fetuses. She'll bring gloves for all participants, but you should plan to bring coveralls.

12:00 Lunch – We can have a potluck and are welcome to use the kitchen.

At 1:00 PM, Letty Klein presents "**Let's Talk About Fleece**". Using available fleeces, Letty will talk about the uniqueness, variety, and uses of fleece from different sheep breeds, plus characteristics that make up a good fleece. Letty will encourage shepherd's to show their best fleeces in fleece competitions, like the one at Michigan Fiber Festival, by demonstrating proper skirting and presentation techniques. We may even have a mock-fleece show to illustrate what a judge looks for when judging a fleece for handspinning.

Then at 3:00 PM, Sue Pufpaff will conduct a **Tour of the Fiber Mill** to show what happens to your fleece during processing. The **Felting Machine** will also be up and running so you can see it in action.

To conclude the day, Sue will present a short talk about the pros and cons of **Llamas as Livestock Guardians**.

2) Saturday, June 5, 2010. Rich Fitz - Ugly Dog's Farm, 5185 N Washburn Rd, Davison, MI. 48423, ph 810-299-3417, www.uglydogsfarm.com

"ALL ABOUT WOOL" Starting at Noon, Topics Include:

- Maximizing your "wool crop" – sheep management ideas for ensuring the best wool you can produce.
- Preparing for Shearing – Tom Bass, veteran sheep shearer, will talk with shepherds about what they can do before/during/after shearing day to make things easy on your sheep, the shearer, and your wool.
- Washing Wool at Home – Cary Smith of Serenity Farms will share her great technique for washing raw wool.
- What's it Good For? – Shepherds will have a chance to see, feel, and talk about various breeds/grades of wool and their uses.
- Marketing Fleeces - Cindy Cieciva and Margaret Van Camp of Pitchfork Ranch will share their proven plan for marketing prime fleeces.

Also Featuring:

- Potluck Lunch – bring a dish to pass, enjoy talking with fellow shepherds and wool enthusiasts.
- Spinners, Weavers, Wool-Crafters will be on hand to demonstrate their skills (bring YOUR woolen-wares to show off).
- Our lambing barn will be set-up for shepherds to see.

Please call us or send an email through our website for more info or for detailed directions to the farm!

3) Sunday, August 22, 2010. Michigan Fiber Festival, Allegan, we'll meet at the sheep show ring right after the showmanship competition.

1:00 PM - "**Lambing Basics**" with Dr. Heather Ludlam. Half of her session will be a PowerPoint presentation and the other half will be hands-on. During the hands-on Heather uses an artificial uterus along with dead lamb fetuses. She'll bring gloves for all, but please plan to bring coveralls.

2:30 PM – "**Let's Talk About Fleece**" with Letty Klein. Using available fleeces, both on and off the sheep, Letty will talk about the uniqueness and variety of fleece from different sheep breeds, plus characteristics that make up a good fleece.

Your MSB Small Flock Committee: Letty Klein, Mike and Dr. Heather Ludlam, Tom Bass, Rich Fitz, Diane Lalomia