Wilson County Agricultural Article from Ruth Correll, Agricultural Extension Agent

2015 Middle TN Wool Pool Is Announced

What is known as “America’s premium fiber?” It is renewable, natural, eco-friendly, color-fast, durable, biodegradable, easy care, flame resistant, comfortable, sustainable and water resistant. If you guessed wool, you guessed correctly. It is sometimes known as a “miracle fiber.”

The Tennessee Sheep Producers Association announces the 2015 Tennessee Wool Pool for June 18, at the Maury County Farmers Co-op, Columbia, TN. Wool will be accepted from 9 AM to 12 Noon.

Wool was the first agricultural commodity to be traded internationally. Tennessee has the oldest “wool pool” in the United States. This marketing effort began many years ago as a means to capture more value for Tennessee wool. At one time Wilson County had large numbers of sheep and the wool pool was held in Lebanon.

Most sheep producers don’t have enough of their own wool to market it directly to a warehouse or woolen mill. A wool pool makes it possible for a group of producers to combine their wool for marketing. There's enough wool at a pool so that it can be separated (classed) and sold according to type and quality.

When the wool is collected from a large contingent of producers, graded, and baled, wool buyers are willing to pay additional premium for the wool. Baling of the wool has made the pool more attractive to buyers since baling makes the wool easier to handle and ship.

The TN wool pool is overseen by the Tennessee Sheep Producers Association. This will be the only opportunity for Tennessee sheep producers to market their wool in a cooperative effort and the more consignors, the better. Tennessee wool has earned a good reputation since this cooperative effort of marketing began.

Producers are encouraged to participate in the Wool and Mohair Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) program. For additional information, contact your local Farm Services Administration (FSA) office before the Wool Pool delivery date.

The Tennessee Wool Pool has fetched a "good price" in recent years which is due to the efforts to market a quality product. This effort includes careful grading, avoiding mixing in dark wool fibers, eliminating hair fibers from the wool, and marketing clean wool.

Following are some suggestions local producers should follow to aid in marketing their wool and help keep the 'pool' more attractive:

1. Do not bring wet wool to the pool.
2. Do not bring shearings’ from "hair sheep" from either purebred or crossbred "hair sheep." Hair will not be accepted. It is important to maintain the integrity of the pool. Buyers will not bid on wool that is contaminated with hair.
3. It is preferred that wool be brought to the pool in either burlap or plastic wool bags. Do not bring wool in plastic feed bags or tied with plastic twine.

4. Keep the wool from white-faced sheep separated from “black faced” wool. Do not “hide” black wool in lamb’s wool or “bury” wool. Bags that contain any black wool will be graded BLACK.

5. Black wool will be accepted with a bid of 20% of the “medium clear” wool.

To efficiently manage the pool and get the wool baled, consignors are requested to have the "volunteer" spirit and help get their wool baled. This will make it easier on everyone. The pool is being managed and run by "volunteers" and help is requested from consignors and will be much appreciated. Lunch will be available for producers willing to help volunteer.

For additional information you may contact your local Extension Office

**Agricultural Market Report**

**Cattle Market Trends**

Feeder steers mostly $2 to $7 lower, $184.00-$347.50; Feeder heifers steady to $6 lower, $185.00-$315.00; Slaughter cows steady, $95.50-$115.50; Slaughter bulls steady, $130.00-$148.00.

**Grain Market Trends**

Corn and wheat were down; soybeans were mixed for the week. Corn – Cash price, $3.51-$4.00. July futures closed at $3.51 a bushel, down 9 cents. Soybeans - Cash price, $9.12-$9.67. July futures closed at $9.34 a bushel, up 10 cents. Wheat - Cash price, $4.47-$4.75July futures closed at $4.77 a bushel, down 38 cents.

For additional information on these and other topics, contact the UT Extension Office, 925 East Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087, 615-444-9584 or acorrell@utk.edu. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in all programs. Visit the UT/TSU Extension webpage at http://utextension.tennessee.edu/wilson or look for UT & TSU Extension, Wilson County on Facebook.

#####

Submitted by:
Ruth Correll
Agricultural Agent
UT/TSU Extension, Wilson County
acorrell@utk.edu