Hello District 2 and 6 American Romney Breeders!

If you haven't heard already, Districts 2 and 6 will be hosting a joint regional show at the 2016 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. This year's festival dates are May 7th & 8th with a registration deadline of April 1st.

There are no additional entries or fees necessary, but there will be extra prizes and we are planning to have a junior show within the regular show; juniors will receive additional prizes and premiums. We are also planning to have a causal dinner at the festival on Saturday the 7th. Dinner will be held at 4pm to ensure that everyone can make it to the sheep sale by 6. The dinner is open to all ARBA members and those participating in the Romney show. It will be a great time to visit with old friends and hopefully make a few new friends!

As for entries, <u>online registration</u> system is ready now to accept <u>sheep show</u> entries. <u>Entry forms</u> were recently mailed to previous exhibitors, and are also available on the festival <u>website</u>, along with complete sheep show <u>rules and regulations</u>. <u>Entries must either be made online or postmarked by April 1, 2016.</u> A \$20 late fee will be assessed to those entries postmarked after April 1. No entries will be accepted after April 10 postmark.

The <u>Ewe Show & Sale</u> will be returning this year with some important changes. In addition to yearling ewes, fall ewe lambs and spring ewe lambs, for the first time rams and ram lambs will be included. To sell a ram, you must enter two ewes. The pre-sale SHOW will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday; this year the SALE moves from Friday to Saturday and will start at 6:00 p.m.

Other happenings at the festival:

- Online registration is also open for <u>Fiber Arts Workshops</u>, <u>Shepherd Workshops</u>, and <u>Family Activities</u>. All registrations will be processed on a first come, first served basis, until classes are filled.
- Don't forget the contests and competitions suitable for the younger set the <u>Junior Sheep</u> & Goat Skillathon, <u>Junior Spinning Contest</u>, <u>Lead Line Contest</u>, <u>Sheep Poster Contest</u>, and <u>Youth Conservationist Program (YCP)</u>.
- A significant change for the <u>Fleece Show & Sale</u> is that no late entries will be accepted this year. All entries must be pre-registered and entry forms received by no later than Wednesday, April 27, 2016. New entries will not be accepted at the Festival.

Please plan on joining us at your Districts 2 and 6 Regional Show. The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival is a wonderful place to gather, learn, and share. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and their flocks!

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact your District Directors.

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