

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival
Maple Hill Farm
1961 Plains Rd.
Perkinsville, Vt. 05151

June 12, 2006

Dear Shepherds, Goatherds and Camelid-owners,

Once again it's time to consider bringing animals to the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival. Lots of things have changed from last year. For starters, the dates: this year the festival will be held September 9 and 10. This is because the first full weekend in October is Columbus Day weekend, which is the Wool Arts Tour in N.H., a conflict for many vendors, so we opted to try a different date. We are looking at it as an opportunity, and hope that it brings more people out, since it is well before Rhinebeck and hence, people can attend both festivals! It is also among the first major festivals of the Fall Season, which we see as an advantage.

Secondly, though still at CVE in Essex Junction, we are renting three different buildings this year, which form a triangle with a "common" in their midst. Animals will be housed in the building under the stadium, a well lit, spacious building, with rest rooms, and with four way ventilation and good lighting. It is our hope that this will prove superior to the barn with its leaky roof and to the closed system of the big building, where urine smells take over somewhere early Sunday morning! There will be enough room for those who wish to have their vendor booth next to their animals, so they can sell both products and animals. There will be at least 5 feet of space between each person's animals and the next, no nose to nose, which will go far in protecting our livestock. Demos will be held on the common between the buildings, and signage will direct people from one building to the others. We are hopeful that this arrangement will be superior to our previous accommodations.

Application forms for pen rentals can be sent to you directly, either by snail mail or email by Betty Berlenbach at your request (lambfarm@sover.net; 263-9345) or you can get them from the VSGA website. Please send in your pen reservation forms asap.

Any questions? I'd love to answer them! Hope to see you at the festival. I'd love to have as many breeds of sheep as possible, plus a goodly number of goats of all types and camelids. But only you can make that happen. I'll do my part, by bringing examples of the two breeds I raise. Can you do yours?

Sincerely,

Betty Berlenbach