

Illinois
Southdown
Breeders
Association

Scoop!

Volume 1, Issue 1

Southdown Experience. . . Be There!

The 7th Annual Illinois Junior Southdown Experience will be June 9, 2007 at the Woodford County Fairgrounds 1 mile east of Eureka, Illinois.

The Southdown Experience is designed for youth with an interest in Southdown sheep. The Experience will be as enjoyable for the new exhibitor as well as the experienced junior exhibitor. Raising Southdowns is more than a show ring experience and this weekend will reward both juniors with excellent Southdowns and those who share Southdown enthusiasm. A junior meeting and pizza lunch, provided by the Cole & Meisenheimer families, will be served after the show, providing time for renewing friendships and making new acquaintances.

Besides the sheep show, the Southdown Experience offers additional



competition. Sheep Extension Specialist, Dick Cobb, of the University of Illinois, will supervise a sheep obstacle course contest. Juniors with halter-broke lambs will be able to compete in the Sheep Olympics. Participants will be timed to determine a winner. There will also be a quiz bowl event that will include equipment

identification and sheep knowledge questions. Exhibitors can win sheep equipment and all exhibitors receive an Experience T-Shirt provided by the Johnson family.

The Illinois Southdown Breeders under the leadership of Mike McElvain organized The Experience in response to several inquiries by young Southdown owners wanting to take part in a junior activity. The event will be held in conjunction with the 17th annual Illinois Suffolk Junior Show, The Illinois Club Lamb Preview and the Dorset Preview. The show will start with Suffolk's and Southdowns. It will conclude with the Dorset and club lambs.

Show Check-In: 7:30 a.m.

Market Lamb Weigh-In: 7:30 a.m.

Show: 9:00 a.m.

Rules and entry information on page 3.

Write an Essay...Win a Lamb!

It's not too late! Juniors can still enter the essay contest sponsored by the Illinois Southdown Breeders. The winner of the contest will be presented with a Southdown ewe lamb, donated by a quality Illinois breeder, at the 2007 Southdown Experience in Eureka. The lamb will be registered in the winner's name and have a value of \$150 to \$250 value. The entry deadline is May 1, 2007.

The contest is open to Illinois 4-H or FFA members under the age of 16 and not currently raising Southdown sheep.

The essay should describe why the contestant would like a Southdown ewe lamb, future plans for the lamb and how they will care for it. Essays will be judged by school teachers on their content and age appropriateness.

Entries should be sent to Betsy Meisenheimer, 5734 Palmyra Rd, Palmyra, IL 62674 by May 1, 2007. Please include the entrants name, address, phone number, age and 4-H club or FFA chapter name. Questions concerning the contest should also be directed to Betsy at 217-436-2195 or

meisen5@dtmspeed.net.

Breeders, if you know of a youth who could benefit from this contest, please spread the word.

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Scoop!: Southdown People Calling Out Our Pride!

It's Good to be a Southdown Breeder. . .

By: Mark Johnson, ISBA President

There has never been a better time in the 125 year history of the American Southdown Breeders Association to be a Southdown breeder. Here the top ten reasons why this is true:

10. Education – Southdown breeders support education. Over the last 25 years Southdown breeders from across the country have donated ewes to help establish Southdown flocks (High IQ Flocks) at some of the nation's top colleges. This year Clemson University was awarded a Southdown High IQ Flock. In addition, Colorado State University (a previous High IQ recipient) students and faculty exhibited sheep at the National Southdown Show. The Southdown Association also sponsors awards for livestock judging at the NAILE, including a traveling trophy for the top-placing team in sheep in the senior college contest. Southdown breeders across the country make their livestock available for judging contests and workouts.

9. 6,000 – Registrations are up! During the last fiscal year Southdown breeders registered over 6,000 head. Many of the major breeds have seen a marked decrease in registrations over the last 25 years. Southdowns are up. Good news travels fast.

8. Sound Footing – The American Southdown Breeders Association has a sound financial footing. Very strong breeder support of the Association and its activities and a fiscally conservative Board have kept the Association in the black.

7. Technology – The Southdown Association was the first sheep association to implement a DNA testing policy regarding spider syndrome. The Association was also the first one to adopt a policy regarding the DNA testing for the resistance to Scrapie -- an example of using current technology to objectively measure animals to better the entire breed and the sheep industry.

6. Performance – In tests done at the 2005 PA Ram Test, Southdown rams

excelled the group in feed efficiency, and loin eye area. The Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation center is now the official ram test of the American Southdown Breeders Association.

5. Integrity – Southdown buyers demand a higher level of integrity. Breeders are highly rewarded for making individuals for sale that are superior sheep, that exhibit strong breed character, and are not over-aged.

4. Youth – The Southdown breed started the first ewe lamb futurity. It is still the largest and most successful futurity of its kind. Breeder support and youth participation continues to allow this program to grow. It has already spawned the successful yearling ewe futurity.

3. Slick Sheared, when slick sheared wasn't cool - when much of the country was still showing wethers with butt wool, Southdowns started slick shearing. We are still waiting for the thank you note from Lister.

2. One Breed, One Purpose - The best Southdowns produce sheep that will win in the breeding stock arena as well as club lamb circles. Southdowns have always been a meat breed, now breeders have succeeded in producing a functional meat animal.

And the number one reason why it's good to be a Southdown Breeder:

1. The People – The Southdown breed has a long rich history in the United States. The breed has been and is fortunate to have so many skilled livestock breeders commit so much of their time and resources to improving their Southdown flock. It is the dedicated breeders that have made the breed not only survive the test of time but thrive. Progressive, dedicated, committed, and focused are all terms that can be used to describe a top livestock producer, a Southdown breeder.

Mark also serves on the ASBA Board of Directors representing Region 2, District 1. This article was written for and printed in the December issue of the The Banner.

Scoop! Southdown People Calling Out Our Pride!

Can you think of a better slogan? I've been wracking my brain for a catchy phrase that uses the letters in "Scoop!". I came up with some pretty interesting ones, but they had nothing to do with Southdowns or Southdown people. So I'm asking for your help.

Send me your suggestions. The slogan should use the letters in "Scoop!" and promote or positively describe Southdowns, Southdown breeders or Southdown news. If we have more than one good suggestion, that's ok - we can use more than one!

Email your suggestions to Rhonda at brbaer@verizon.net.

Upcoming Dates:

- May 1** - Entries Due - Illinois Southdown Ewe Lamb Essay Contest
- May 11-12** - Ohio Southdown Classic Sale, Eaton, OH
- May 18-19** - Eastern Stud Ram Sale, Staunton, VA
- May 26-27** - Great Lakes All-Breeds Sheep Show & Sale, Wooster, OH
- June 1-2** - Nugget All-American Invitational Sale, Sparks, NV
- June 9** - Illinois Junior Southdown Experience, Eureka, IL
- June 25-30** - Midwest Stud Ram Southdown Sale, Sedalia, MO
- July 6-8** - All-American Jr. Show, MI State University, Lansing, MI
- July 19-22** - National Southdown Sale & Jr. Show, The Big E, West Springfield, MA
- July 20-21** - Western Frontier Sale, Greeley, CO
- August 10, 9:00 a.m.** - Illinois Jr. Breeding Sheep Show, Illinois State Fair, Springfield, IL
- August 14, 9:00 a.m.** - Midwest Regional Southdown Show, Illinois State Fair, Springfield, IL
- August 18** - Iowa Hawkeye Sale, Des Moines, IA
- November 7-16** - NAILE, Louisville, KY



Southdown Experience Show Rules

1. All exhibitors must be under the age of 21 on the date of the show. No lower age limit. Junior must be able to show a spring lamb.
2. All sheep must be registered in the name of the exhibitor or an immediate family member. Registration papers will be checked the day of the show and sheep must be registered Southdowns to exhibit. (Market lambs an exception.)
3. All out-of-state sheep must have health papers signed by a veterinarian within the last 30 days.
4. All sheep must be slick shorn.

- Market lambs may be either sex. (wether, no rams). Market lambs are to be out of registered Southdown ram and registered Southdown ewe. Weigh-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. All sheep will be weighed by 9:00 a.m.
5. Check in will start at 7:30 a.m. All sheep must be checked in by 9:00 am. Sheep will be released at the conclusion of the Junior Membership Meeting.
 6. The following classes will show: Fall Ram Lamb, Spring Ram Lamb, Yearling Ewe, Fall Ewe Lamb, Spring Ewe Lamb, Champions, Pair Ewe Lambs, Pair Ram Lambs, Market Lamb and Pair Market Lambs.
 7. Fee for participation will be \$3.00 per class entered. This includes pairs.

- No fee for Champion class.
8. Any natural bedding is allowed. No carpeting. Each exhibitor is responsible for putting the used bedding in the isle after the show. Exhibitors may show out of their trailer.
 9. The Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act will be followed, and enforced. No mistreatment of any animal will be permitted.

**2007 Illinois State Fair
Premium Books
are now available online:
[http://www.agr.state.il.us/
isf/premium/](http://www.agr.state.il.us/isf/premium/)**

Join the Illinois Southdown Breeders' Association!

Illinois Southdown Breeders Association Why Should You Join?

It's a Pride Thing!

- Illinois is steeped in Southdown history. The American Southdown Breeders' Association was incorporated in the Land of Lincoln.
- Illinois Breeders register more Southdowns than any other state in the nation.
- Illinois: it's where you live and raise Southdowns!

It's a Benefit Thing!

- You'll receive this newsletter and we'll greet you with a warm handshake and a smile.
- One paid membership = one vote for the Illinois State Fair judge.
- Everyone in the sheep barn will say, "There goes Joe (substitute your name if it's not Joe), did you know he's a member of the ISBA? He's so cool!"

It's a Youth Thing!

- The ISBA awards special prizes to juniors at the Illinois Southdown Junior Show.
- The ISBA sponsors an annual youth essay contest and awards the winner a Southdown ewe lamb.
- The ISBA hosts the Junior Southdown Experience for all Illinois Southdown youth.

It's a People Thing!

- We'd like to host a National Jr. Show and/or Sale, and frankly, we need the help!
- We are hosting the 2007 Midwest Regional Southdown Show at the IL State Fair - be part of the fun!
- Illinois Southdown Breeders are great people to be around - join today and find out!

Illinois Southdown Breeders' Association Membership Application

Name: _____

Farm/Flock Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

Tells us a little about yourself:

How many Southdowns do you raise? _____

How long have you been raising Southdowns? _____

If you're a junior, how old are you? _____

Comments and/or Suggestions:

Please send any comments and/or suggestions along with this application to the address below or email:
brbaer@verizon.net

Annual Membership Dues are \$20

Please make checks payable to:
Illinois Southdown Breeders Association
Remit to:
Illinois Southdown Breeders Association
c/o Rhonda Baer, Treasurer
PO Box 347
Carlock, IL 61725-0347

Experience Food, Fun & Fellowship!

What better way is there to top off a sheep show than with pizza?! Southdown juniors and their families are invited to stay for a pizza lunch following the Southdown Experience sheep show. The lunch is held in a pavillion on the idyllic Woodford County Fair Grounds. Juniors will have a short meeting at this time.

Join us for lunch, catch up with old friends, make some new friends, and take a few minutes to relax before the ride home.

The pizza lunch is graciously provided by the Cole and Meisenheimer families of Palmyra, IL.

Want to be a sponsor of prizes for
The Southdown Experience?
Contact Rhonda by May 15 at
brbaer@verizon.net
or 309/275-8451

Illinois Southdown Breeders Association

Mark Johnson, President
2702 45th Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548
815/786-6495
AandMRanch@aol.com

Betsy Meisenheimer, Secretary
5734 Palmyra Rd, Palmyra, IL 62674
217/436-2195 or
meisen5@dtnspeed.net

Rhonda Baer, Treasurer
PO Box 347, Carlock, IL 61725
309/275-8451
brbaer@verizon.net

MIDWEST REGIONAL SOUTHDOWN SHOW

Tuesday, August 14, 2007; 9:00 a.m.

Illinois State Fair, Springfield, IL

Judge: Mark Smith

*Celebrating
125 Years
of the ASBA...
in Illinois,
Where it All Began!*

Entries Due:
July 1

Premium Book
and Entry Form
available online at:
<http://www.agr.state.il.us/isf/premium/>



ISBA
Scoop! Rhonda Baer, Treasurer
PO Box 347
Carlock, IL 61725-0347

TO: