

2017 Grasslands Sheep Exhibition Report by Gord Schroeder

The 2017 Grasslands Sheep Exhibition held from July 21-23 was another successful event and planning for the 2018 Grasslands Sheep Exhibition is already underway.

This year Grasslands celebrated its 40th anniversary. The first show and sale was held in Vanscoy in 1977. The event was held in Vanscoy for 13 years, then moved to Lloydminster for 3 yrs, Assiniboia for 11 yrs, Drake for 11 yrs and now in Humboldt for the past 2 yrs. A special exhibit displaying posters, catalogs and photos from past events was available for viewing. Colleen Sawyer who started the first show and sale in Vanscoy spoke at the banquet and shared information on why and how the event was started and the journey to the present day event. The celebration ended with a special 40th anniversary cake that was enjoyed by all.

The sheep show consisted of 22 exhibitors, plus an additional 14 juniors showing 133 animals.

Class winners:

Supreme Ram - Clint Wiens;

Prospect Ewe Lamb - Lois Trowell;

Supreme Ewe – Mike and Vanessa Grimmeyer ;

Market Lamb – Keith Johnson;

Premier Seller – Luke Kratchmer

Average Sale results:

Commercial ewe lambs \$270- \$300;

Purebred ewe lambs \$400- \$475;

Yearling purebred ewes \$450 - \$610;

Yearling rams \$375- \$1000;

Purebred ram lambs \$525-\$950

There was a larger than average trade show with 29 booths in attendance. Participants included feed, fencing and sheep handling equipment companies; systems for livestock management and record keeping; informational trade booths featuring programs on environment, predation management; and also the Ministry of Agriculture representative was in attendance to promote Premise Identification.

Several demonstrations were held during the weekend, these included the Combi Clamp Handling System, Shearwell Data Systems, Bioflock Management Software, market lamb selection, and working dog demonstrations.

A Fibre Showcase was held at this year's event to promote the wool industry. Twelve wool artisans were busy working with wool and displaying their handmade art and crafts. A fleece show was held and a shearing competition won by Chris Eddy was also part of the activities at Grasslands.

Grasslands Sheep Exhibition is a showcase for the sheep industry. Individuals and families thinking about entering the industry attend this event. This is an opportunity to encourage perspective new producers. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to put on the event, participated, and thank you to all that attended, we hope you enjoyed it.

See you again next year in July at the 2018 Grasslands Sheep Exhibition in Humboldt.