

Sheep & Fiber Fest a bleating good time

WAYNESBURG - Get ready for sheep-shearing, wool-spinning, dog-shepherding fun as the sixth annual Sheep & Fiber Fest descends on the Greene County Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 16 and 17.

The festival, which is coordinated by Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful, celebrates the heritage of sheep, wool and fibers in Greene County.

This year's Sheep & Fiber Fest will be staged at the fairgrounds rather than its past location of High Street in Waynesburg because Waynesburg University's commencement exercises are scheduled for the same weekend. Admission is free, and there will be plenty of activities to enjoy at the fairgrounds.

The festival schedule includes a juried crafts show and sale featuring vendors from throughout the region, many demonstrating and selling fiber-related wares.

One of the most popular activities is the "Sheep to Shawl" demonstration in which several teams are in a timed competition to create a finished piece of woolen apparel. Spectators see the process from the actual shearing of the sheep, cleaning and carding of the wool, then spinning and weaving into the finished shawl, all in one quick assembly-line operation. Several spinners and weavers guilds participate, and the finished shawls are offered at auction to festival attendees.

A breed pavilion will display various breeds and types of live sheep and alpacas, and visitors will have a chance to watch live demonstrations of a professional sheep-herding dog. Sheep shearing demonstrations also are scheduled at numerous times throughout the festival.

For anyone interested in cooking lamb, this year's Sheep & Fiber Fest will feature lamb-cooking demonstrations, during which several area cooks will prepare lamb dishes and share tricks, tips and recipes. Plenty of free lamb sampling will be available.

Other activities include live musical entertainment, children's activities, a kids' pedal tractor pull and auction and a photography contest and exhibit. This year's photo contest and exhibit is located at the PA Welcome Center at the Kirby exit off Interstate 79 north.

The sixth annual Sheep & Fiber Fest is sponsored in part by National City Bank, now a part of PNC, and the American Lamb Board.

For more information on the Sheep & Fiber Fest, visit www.sheepandfiber.com, or call Carol Adamson, festival chairman, at 724-451-8406.

Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful is a nonprofit, Main Street program that operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. Funded by the state Department of Community and Economic Development, Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful represents a community endeavor to preserve and revitalize historic downtown Waynesburg and raise awareness of the educational, cultural and historical opportunities, as well as the convenience of shopping, associated with the town.

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