

2010 Tennessee Sheep Shearing School Features Australian Instructor Bill O'Conner and New Location: Tennessee Livestock Center in Murfreesboro

The 2010 Tennessee Sheep Shearing School will be on April 30 - May 1, 2010 at the Tennessee Livestock Center (TLC) on the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) campus in Murfreesboro. The school is sponsored by the Tennessee Sheep Producers Association, Tennessee Farmer's Cooperative, the University of Tennessee Extension Service and the MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience.

Former Australian Wool Board Instructor Bill O'Conner will offer his refined basic technique to any student with some sheep handling experience. Bill is an International Sheep Shearing Champion who also has traveled and shorn in Ireland, United Kingdom, New Zealand and all the states of Australia.

Mr. O'Conner will be assisted by Mark Powell, Wilson Farmer's Co-op, Jim Neel, with UT Extension and Dr. Warren Gill, Director of the MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience.

The shearing school is designed for either beginner or experienced shearers who wish to improve their skills. Top sheep shearers will teach the most modern, up-to-date shearing methods. One of the most important aspects of the school is information about maintenance and care of sheep shearing equipment.

This shearing school is not designed for young children; in fact, we ask that participants be at senior 4-H (9th - 12th grade) level. The Tennessee Sheep Producers Association does encourage participation by senior 4-H'ers and will pay the registration fee for the first five 4-H members who register.

The school will start at 10:00am on Friday, April 1, with registration. At 10:30 AM there will be a discussion of equipment care and maintenance and at 1:00 PM shearing will start with a demonstration by Bill O'Conner. On Saturday, May 1, at 8:00 am shearing will start and *continue until all sheep are sheared*.

Meals and lodging are the responsibility of the participants. You can attend for one day only, but it is preferable to attend both sessions. An American Sheep Industry wool manual will be included as a part of the school.

The location will be the Tennessee Livestock Center (TLC) on the campus MTSU in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Take I-24 to exit 81B, go to 2nd light, turn right onto Rutherford Blvd, go to the 7th light, turn left onto Greenland Dr., TLC will be 1/2 mile on left. Address is 1720 Greenland Drive. Website is <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~tlc/> . The phone number at TLC is 615-898-5575.

Tips For Participants:

1. **REQUIREMENT:** Bring a small, (4' x 4' or larger) piece of old carpet or plywood for a shearing surface.
2. Wear "old clothes."
3. Exercise for a few weeks before coming to the school.
4. Bring your own shears, if possible. Some equipment will be for sale at the school.
5. Bring an oil can and some unused motor oil.
6. Bring heavy-duty extension cords, if available.

The cost for the Shearing School is **\$50 per person**. In order to make plans, pre-registration is required. Participation is limited to the first 20 paid applicants. Complete the form below and return to the address shown:

**Pre-Registration
2010 TN Sheep Shearing School**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP: _____ COUNTY: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Are you 4-H member seeking scholarship? _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Website: <http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/>

**Make checks payable to: TN Sheep Producers Association
and mail to:**

Dr. Warren Gill, Director
MTSU School of Agribusiness and Agriscience
MTSU Box 5
Murfreesboro, TN 37132