

March 2018

Greetings Fellow Shearers and Sheep and Fiber Enthusiasts,

I am excited to be coordinating and directing Maine Fiber Frolic's first ever Sheep Shearing Contest! This competition is designed to promote local sheep producers, generate interest in shearing, and support the shearing industry both as a sport and a vocation.

Any individual is welcome to participate as a contestant regardless of experience or age. However, we will be abiding as close as possible to an international set of rules and regulations set forth by the Golden Shears World Championship Shearing Competition and recognized by most shearing events.

All contestants will be expected to use a typical sheep shearing pattern. No show fitting stands or "holding helpers" will be permitted. Contestants must be physically able to flip and restrain their sheep without help for the duration of shearing, and be able to return sheep to pen upon completion. All contestants must provide their own shearing equipment (see rules for details). Hand motor shears are permitted. Contestants may bring a maximum of two helpers with them (see rules for details). All contestants and helper/handlers must sign a liability waiver before participating in the competition. Anyone under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign for them.

Please be aware that although I and the MFF committee take every precaution to create the safest environment possible for this competition, there are inherent risks when dealing with large animals and shearing blades. Competitors, helpers, volunteers, and spectators should take this into consideration and be responsible for their own safety.

As coordinator, I will endeavor to provide average size sheep with medium fiber. There will be no merino, double fiber, or hair breeds. Competitors should keep in consideration the wellbeing of the sheep and quality of fleece when shearing, as is in accordance with the sport of shearing and professionalism.

I strongly encourage preregistration for this shearing competition, but all entries will be accepted up until 11:30am June 3rd, 2018. All contestants and helper/holders must check in at the shearing barn by 12:00pm June 3rd day of the shearing competition. Drawing for heats/pens will be done at 12:15pm, and contestants will have 30min to set up shearing equipment and inspect pens. Awards ceremony will held after last heat.

There is no registration/entry fee for entering the competition, however there will be a \$5 gait fee to enter and attend MFF. this fee is waved only for vendors and volunteers.

I am happy to answer any questions about rules and procedures for this contest. You can email ediekershner@yahoo.com, or call/text 207-322-4601

I am looking forward to a fun and festive day of shearing, and hope to see you all at
Maine Fiber Frolic!

Edith Kershner – Contest coordinator and Referee

2018 Maine Fiber Frolic Sheep Shearing Competition

Rules and Regulations

Contest Organizer/Referee: Edith Kershner – (207) 322-4601

Competition Date/Time: Sunday June 3rd 1:00pm

Check in: June 3rd 12:00 pm

Location: Windsor Fair Grounds 82 Ridge Rd, Windsor, ME 04363

General Rules

1. COMPETITORS

- (a) Competitors enter and compete at their own risk.
- (b) Competitors must be suitably dressed, including footwear. The Referee will administer this ruling. Appropriate shirts, pants and/or belt should be worn to prevent indecent exposure. Exposure in any inappropriate manner as deemed by the Judges or Referee, may result in stopping a contestant during a heat to cover the exposed area. If the exposure cannot be covered, a contestant may be prevented from finishing.
- (c) The use of drugs, intravenous fluids or oxygen is banned in all competitions. MFF reserves the right to administer random drug tests, and if proved positive, the competitor will pay all costs and be disqualified.
- (d) The referee or judge has the right to switch off the machine or disqualify any competitor whose work or conduct on the shearing board is detrimental to the image of competition shearing. Referee may stop a competitor during an event if clearly not competitive time wise.

(e) Competitors should refrain from using profanity. If excessive profanity is used as deemed by the Judges or Referee, a contestant may be disqualified for unsportsman like behavior.

2. COMPETITION RULES

(a) A draw for Heats will be made prior to the competition for all divisions. The competitor or an authorized helper must be present for their draw. Competitors who are not present or do not have a helper present, will not be drawn a stand or pen, and will therefore not be able to compete.

(b) Competitors must provide their own shearing equipment including hand-pieces, combs, cutters, blade shears, shearing motor, oil, gloves, hand blades, etc. Outlets and power cords will be available in 110v AC format. Competitors requiring other power source should bring their own adapter. Equipment may be shared by competitors in separate heats if prior arrangements are made and the Referee notified. MFF will not be responsible for any lost or damaged equipment.

(c) Competitors will each be allowed two loaded hand-pieces or two blade shears (shearmasters) which are their responsibility and no time will be allowed for stoppage caused by their hand-piece, blade shears, or sheep escaping from the competitor on the shearing board. Should any stoppages occur through the fault of the electric power source or through another competitor's sheep escaping, a time allowance may be made or a re-run given, only at the Judges and Referees discretion.

(d) A draw for stands must be made after sheep are in the catching pens where practical for heats. Note: "stand" refers to the spot where shearing will be done, and should not be confused with a sheep fitting stand as is used in show preparation.

(e) Competitors may enter their pen in the presence of a Judge, to sort and inspect their sheep. Plucking of wool before and/or after time (during if by pen assistant) will incur a penalty.

(f) Competitors may appeal to the Referee to have any sheep they consider sub-standard replaced before the heat commences. The Referee's decision is final. Any sheep rejected by the Referee must be raddled/marked and withdrawn from the entire event.

(g) Without assistance each competitor must:

(i) Start and stop their machine.

(ii) Collect their sheep from a standing position within the catching pen.

(iii) Put each sheep in the "finished" pen after shearing.

(iv) Switch their hand piece off between sheep.

(h) Contestants are permitted, but not required, to have up to two Pen Helpers/holders. Authorized holder/helpers are allowed to do the following: open and shut pen gates, catch sheep and pass in a standing position to shearer, oil/lubricate shears or hand pieces, pass shears/hand pieces to shearer as long as they are turned off, catch and restrain any escaped sheep, pass water to competitors.

(i) An authorized holder/helper is permitted in the catching pen. This person may not tip or lift the sheep for the competitor or switch the machine on or off. No unauthorized persons are permitted in the catching pen and no officials are allowed to assist a competitor in any way, except where safety is a concern.

(j) Any unsportsman like conduct from authorized holder/helper may result in dismissal and banning of that individual from the shearing area. No substitute helper will be provided for a shearing contestant whose helper is dismissed for unsportsman like conduct. No additional penalty will be added to a shearer's score due to helper/handler dismissal

(k) No helpers/handlers will be provided by MFF, and contestants should not expect MFF volunteers to act as helpers/handlers during the competition. No MFF volunteers will be permitted to be in a sheep pen or managing a gate during a heat except in an emergency situation where a person or animals wellbeing is in danger.

(l) Competitors must wait on the stand and may place hand/s on the closed pen gait to await the word 'Go' from the Starter.

(m) On completion of shearing their sheep, all competitors will remain on their stand until the last competitor has finished, unless;

(i) they need to seek urgent medical attention.

(ii) they have been granted permission to leave the board by the referee prior to the commencement of such heat

(n) Competitors may not present their own sheep for the Pen Judges, but may be required to present sheep from the next heat. Failure to do so when required will result in a penalty of one whole point from the Pen Referee.

(o) For Blade Shearing:

(i) Competitors will be allowed to take two sets of blades onto the boards, which must be placed in holders or closed in some other fashion.

(ii) Blades must be placed in the holders or securely closed after each sheep is shorn, including the last sheep. Two whole points per offence for non-compliance.

3. SHEEP

(a) Sheep chosen will be carefully selected for evenness of type and size to provide a fair competition.

(b) Preparation of competition sheep will be kept to a minimum with uniform standard to ensure the safety of pizzle, teats and vulva.

(c) Sheep may be natural color or white, weathered males or ewes. No rams will be used. All sheep will be over a year old and have had at least one previous shearing. Only sheep with one year's worth of fiber will be used. Hooves will have been trimmed.

(d) There will be no guarantee that sheep will be docile or tame. Proper restraint will be the responsibility of the shearer. No halters or collars will be allowed.

4. TIMING

(a) A Competition will provide a minimum of two separate timekeepers with a stopwatch or an approved self-timing device for each competitor.

(b) Each competitor's time will be taken from the Starter's 'Go' until machine shearers have completed their final sheep and switched off their hand-piece, or blade shearers have completed their final sheep and put their shears down securely closed.

5. REFEREES

(a) A Chief Referee will be appointed for each competition who will be responsible for the administration and control of the competition strictly according to these International Rules, and any additional rules approved by Maine Fiber Frolic. The Chief Referee's ruling on any matter not covered by the above will be final.

(b) Any person may seek clarification on any point from the referee. The referee may rule on the matter raised or refer it to the Judges.

(c) The referee must be called and decide any whole point penalty as in 2. (k), 7. (n) and 9. (b)

(d) Before the start of the competition the Referee or Judge will announce whether 'socks' are to be taken off or left on, clarify where crutching starts and finishes, and signify any penalty to be applied accordingly.

6. BOARD JUDGES

(a) The board judges will judge for:

- (i) second cutting of the wool;
- (ii) breaking of fleece;
- (iii) work before or after time;
- (iv) skin attached to wool
- (v) other penalties as per rule 7.

(b) Board judges will start on the same stand of a particular event.

(c) Board judges must rotate so that all competitors receive equal scrutiny.

(d) Board judge's rotation must continue until last sheep of last shearer is finished.

(e) Board judges using counters must, at completion of last sheep of each heat record every competitor's penalty strokes on card provided.

(f) If a competitor receives an injury causing serious bleeding, the Board Judge will stop the competitor if he believes it is in the best interest of the competitor or the competition to do so.

7. BOARD PENALTIES

(a) Second cuts – one credit card in size (85 x 55 x 10mm) equals five penalty strokes. One penalty stroke – (85 x 11 x 10mm).

(b) One penalty stroke for not breaking the neck wool on full wool fleeces.

(c) One whole penalty point per offence if pen handler lifts sheep to assist catch. (See 2. (h)).

(d) One penalty stroke per side for obvious belly wool or brisket frib not removed when shearing belly or for obvious fleece wool removed with belly.

(e) skin pieces – one penalty stroke per 15mm diameter in size, or an equivalent accumulation of smaller errors.

(f) One penalty stroke for not throwing the belly wool clear.

(g) One penalty stroke for wool thrown interfering with another competitor.

(h) Two penalty strokes for first hind leg wool broken out deliberately by competitor on full wool sheep.

(i) Three penalty strokes for using handpiece or blades to cut open neck wool unless a ruling allowing this is made by Chief Referee.

(j) Five penalty strokes if a shorn sheep on release breaks up fleece or carries fleece wool out porthole.

(k) Two whole points for allowing a shorn or partly shorn sheep to escape. The shearer must make a genuine effort to pen the sheep.

(l) One whole point per offence for work before or after time by competitor or pen handler (and during by pen handler) for plucking, removing tassels etc. To be imposed by Board Referee in consultation with judge/s. (See 2. (e))

(m) Two penalty strokes per offence for seconds (helpers) assisting with switching machine on or off.

(n) Five whole points be imposed for rough handling of sheep per offence, Judge and Board Referee's decision in consultation.

(o) The Board Referee is to advise scorers of any whole point penalty under 7. (l).

8. THE PEN JUDGES

(a) Single judging system to be used. If possible, number of Judges used should divide equally into number of sheep being shorn.

(b) The pen judges will judge shorn sheep for – (i) Wool left on. (ii) Cuts on sheep.

(c) The Pen Judge must call the referee to decide penalty for 9.

(b), then judge the rest of that sheep.

9. PEN PENALTIES

(a) (i) Wool left on sheep – one credit card in size (85 x 55 x 10mm) – five penalty strokes. One penalty stroke – (85 x 11 x 10mm). (ii) Skin cuts – one penalty stroke per 15mm diameter in size, or an equivalent accumulation of smaller errors. (iii) Up to two penalty strokes per individual sock left on or up to four penalty strokes if very woolly, as decided by Judges and Chief Referee. (See 5. (d)).

(b) Pen Referee must be consulted and adjudicate on cuts into flesh or muscle (not serious enough to be a full penalty of 5 whole points) where a competitor will be penalized by 5 penalty strokes plus the cut.

(c) The Pen Referee must be consulted to adjudicate on i. a teat cut, which may impair the breeding ability of a ewe ii. a cut, which may require surgical attention (a teat graze may not necessarily incur a full penalty).

If the Pen Referee deems it serious, a penalty of 5 whole points per offence will be given (added separately to pen score).

The Pen Referee will write any whole point penalties in a circle on the pen card and initial it.

If the Pen Referee does not deem the offence to be serious, the pen judge will judge the cut as 9 (a) (ii). Add to penalty of that sheep

Pen Referee may require a minor cut to be stitched without imposing the whole point penalty

(d) The Pen Referee must be consulted to adjudicate on

i). a hamstring cut that may restrict the mobility of the sheep

ii) a pizzle cut which may inhibit or restrict normal function.

(A hamstring cut or pizzle graze may not necessarily incur a full penalty)

If the Pen Referee deems this offence to be serious, a penalty of 10 whole points per offence will be given (added separately to the pen score).

The Pen Referee will write any whole point penalties in a circle on the pen card and initial it.

If the Pen Referee does not deem the offence to be serious, the pen judge will judge the cut as in 9 (a) (ii). Then add to penalty for that sheep

Pen Referee may require a minor cut to be stitched without imposing the whole point penalty point.

10. SHEARING POINTS CALCULATION

Time Points: 1 point for each 20 seconds. Multiply minutes by 3. Divide seconds by Board Points. Divide each competitor's total board strokes by number of sheep shorn.

Pen Points: Divide total penalties by number of sheep shorn. Add Time, Board and Pen Points together to decide competitors score. Competitor with lowest score wins.

Scorers are to be alert for full point penalties on board and pen cards.

In the event of a tie, the competitor with the lowest score for board and pen will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the competitor with the lower pen score will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the competitor with the lower board score will take precedence.

Quality Benchmark.

A quality benchmark will not be used in both Machine and Blade shearing points calculations

11. DISPUTES

(a) Any disputes will be taken to Judges by the Referee. A written appeal must be lodged within 15 minutes of the scores being posted after each heat. Referee and judges will discuss dispute and vote on ruling. Majority vote will decide final outcome of dispute. In the event of a tie vote, Referee vote will have final say.

(b) Person/s appealing may speak to their appeal before the Referee. Other persons will not enter discussion unless requested or invited to do so by Referee.

Rulings will be final and binding on competitors.

12. ADDITIONAL RULES

- (a) All competitions must be equipped with first aid kit, needle, thread and antiseptic and should have veterinary support available if possible.
- (b) Where a prize is given for the best shorn pen of sheep then the pen must have been shorn within a reasonable time as decided by the referee.
- (c) Organizing committee should endeavor to provide a clock that is visible to competitors and spectators.

13. Divisions

- (a) Contestants may enter only one machine shearing division. contestants who compete in a machine division, may also compete in the blade division.
- (b) Any questions on division eligibility should be directed toward the Referee **before** start of contest
- (c) Any attempt to fraudulently enter a division a contestant is not eligible for will result in immediate disqualification and individuals will be banned from competing in any future MFF events

Junior Division

- Contestants ages 19 and under
- Will be expected to shear 2 sheep
- Overall premiums for 1st, 2nd, 3rd scores
- Special awards for Best Pen and Fastest Time

Armature Division

- Age 20 and over
- Individuals that do not shear for direct monetary compensation (example: individual shears own sheep or friend's sheep but does not get compensated with money or trade for shearing. Individuals who shear their own sheep and sell the wool **are** eligible for this division).
- Expected to shear a minimum of 3 sheep
- Overall premiums for 1st, 2nd, 3rd scores
- Special awards given for Best Pen and Fastest Time

Intermediate Professional Division

- Age 20 and over
- Individuals that currently shear for compensation or trade **but** have less than 2 years' experience

OR

- Individuals that currently shear for compensation or trade **but** shear less than 500 animals annually

OR

- Individuals that sheared for compensation in the past but have not sheared for compensation or trade in at least 5 years.
- Expected to shear 5 sheep
- Overall premiums for 1st, 2nd, 3rd scores
- Special awards given for Best Pen and Fastest Time
- Special award for best scoring Maine based shearer (contestants who reside in Maine)

Professional Division

- Age 20 and over
- Individuals that currently shear for compensation or trade and have 2 or more years' experience shearing professionally

OR

- Individuals that shear for compensation or trade and shear 500 or more animals annually

OR

- Individuals that have sheared for compensation or trade within the last five years but no longer shear professionally
- Expected to shear a minimum of 5 sheep with the possibility of at least one being a weathered male
- Overall premiums for 1st, 2nd, 3rd scores
- Special awards given for Best Pen and Fastest Time

- Special award for best scoring Maine based shearer (contestants reside in Maine)

Blade Division

- All ages
- Individuals with experience using blade or non-electric shears
- Open to professional and nonprofessional shearers
- Expected to shear minimum 2 sheep
- Overall premiums for 1st, 2nd, 3rd scores
- Special awards given for Best Pen and Fastest Time

note: Professional divisions may be merged or subdivided depending on participation numbers. Professional divisions will have higher premiums

**Maine Fiber Frolic
Sheep Shearing Contest Entry Form
2018**

Contestant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Division Entering: please circle one

Junior

Armature

Semiprofessional

Professional

Blade

Please Mail form to: Edith Kershner
ATT: sheep shearing contest
1072 Cape Jellison rd.
Stockton Springs, ME
04981

Or email to: ediekershner@yahoo.com