Dear Sheep Producers,

The Finger Lakes Wool Pool will be held Wednesday May 8th, Friday May 10th and Saturday May 11th. Please note that no wool will be accepted on Thursday May 9th. We will again be at the Empire Farm Days site at Lott Farm, 2973 Route 414, Seneca Fall, N.Y. 13148. This is one mile south of Seneca Falls. Hours will be 8:30-4:00 on Wednesday and Friday and 8:30-2:00 on Saturday.

The wool market is slightly improved from last year's very depressed level, although still a long way from the levels we would all like to see. This year's price to producer will be 45 cents per pound for clean white wool at least 2 1/2 inches in length and 15 cents for off-sorts. We were not able to get any bid for colored wool this year.

We are well aware that these prices are disappointing to all, and those with especially nice wool may want to look elsewhere for a better market - we certainly would not fault anyone for doing so, but at the same time want to provide a market for those who need to move their wool.

When you arrive, please sign in at the desk and ask what you can do to help. Even if it looks like all is running smoothly, some workers may need a break. We have jobs suitable for everyone - young and old!

All consignors will be expected to, at a minimum empty their bags and take home their garbage. Anyone who dumps their wool and runs will be assessed an additional 5 cents per pound.

Our pool has always been an ALL VOLUNTEER EFFORT, for almost 100 years, so please plan to spend some time helping as you are able, at least in proportion to the amount of wool you bring. We again particularly need help on feeding the balers, if we can keep 2 balers running, a few people will not have to bale late into the night.

One thing that all have appreciated was providing lunch for the workers, so we will again provide sandwich fixings and drinks for workers. Saturday will be reserved for small producers, so this year we will not accept lots of over 1000 lbs on Saturday, except by prior permission, in order to expedite wool receiving for the smaller producers who can only come on Saturday. Small producers will not need to pre-consign their wool, however, those planning to bring over 1,000 lbs will need to call Gary Fisher at 607-387-5804 for scheduling. Please call Gary by May 1st as this will help us plan the trucking. You may get an answering machine as Gary is a busy farmer, but he will return your call.
Grading will be as follows:
Lot 1--Clean white wool, over 2 1/2 inches long
Lot 2--Off sorts—(bellies, heads, short wool and wool with heavy vegetable Contamination.)
Black wool will not be accepted by the pool this year

PLEASE SEPARATE YOUR BELLIES AND OTHER SHORT OR LOW QUALITY WOOL AT THE FARM. Our volume will not allow extensive sorting at the pool, and if you do not take the time to presort it yourself, your wool may have to go off-sorts, at the lower off-sorts price.

We will not accept wool that is more than 2 years from shearing, wool with poly contamination, any hair sheep cross wool, wet wool, or wool that otherwise does not meet our standards. We will also not accept wool that has been stored in burlap or woven plastic feed bags, too much contamination.

Membership will be $10.00 per farm, prorated for small lots and WAIVED for those that help for at least half a day. In addition, those working a full day or more will receive $10.00/day expense allowance as a token of our appreciation.

Anyone needing more information may call me at 607-546-2341 for an update. (no calls after 9 p.m. please) Also please feel free to call me with other pool questions and remember to call Gary Fisher if you are planning to bring 1,000 pounds. Looking forward to seeing you at pool.

Mark Harth, President