



FSA Promotes LDPs at the Maryland Wool Pool

For the second year in a row FSA had a presence, in the form of a booth, at the Maryland Wool Pool. On June 22, 2005, Andrea Naughton, program technician from the Maryland State FSA office, attended the Wool Pool at the State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Md., in an effort to increase awareness and the number of participants of the Wool and Mohair Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP).

The Wool Pool was first organized more than 40 years ago to provide local sheep producers with a way to market their wool. Major wool buyers are notified in advance of the Wool Pool. On the day of the Wool Pool, buyers are given an opportunity to place a bid by phone with the highest bid winning the pool.

Wool is delivered to the pool, and is immediately graded, packaged, weighed by a strong team of adult and teenage volunteers. At the end of the day, wool is loaded onto trucks to be sent to a wool scouring plant. Producers are given their weight tickets that include the calculated payment they will receive approximately two weeks after the pool.



These Maryland producers, who have volunteered their time at the 2005 Maryland Wool Pool, are waiting for the wool baler. The wool is sorted for packaging and/or loading.

Before the producers hopped into their trucks to head out, Andrea Naughton explained the LDP program, encouraged them to complete a Forum CCC-633 before they left the Wool Pool and assisted them in completing the form. She informed them of the LDP rate for that week and explained the procedures they would have to follow: (1) visiting their local FSA office to provide them with a copy of their production evidence; (2) filing an acreage report; and (3) updating their eligibility forms if necessary. She collected 24 applications from producers that came to the Wool Pool from eight Maryland counties and nearby York, Pa.



In this photo, David Greene grades wool at the 2005 Maryland Wool Pool. After the wool is unloaded, each fleece is individually graded by a certified classer.

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