New chapter for sheep show

WITH a history spanning more than half a century, the Rabobank National Merino Sheep Show and Ram Sale at Dubbo is entering a new chapter this year.

For the first time it will include a farm expo with field day style sites selling and displaying all manner of items suited to the sheep producer. Show and sale president Stuart McBurnie said the idea of the farm expo was for commercial producers to be able to enjoy a day out looking at some of the best sheep in the country, while also being able to do some business with a number of industry related sites.

“We’re going to have everything from ag bikes, tools, machinery, rural merchandise, clothing, shearing yards and handling equipment, contractors and even sheep dogs,” Mr McBurnie said.

“The enthusiasm from these businesses has been overwhelming.

“We appreciate their support and the support from all our valued sponsors as our event enters this new phase.

“We can see the Dubbo National will go from strength to strength, and we are keen to take all our supporters on this exciting journey.

“For all the farmers who turn up this year there will be a surprise in store too.

“Fahstock will be among the businesses showcasing its products and managing director Ms Donna Walker is keen to discuss its range of animal vitamin and mineral supplements.

“If you’re in the trouble to put a supplement out you want to make sure that it is doing the job to the best ability it can, “ Mr Walker said. Also, as something special for Dubbo, Peter Harvey the animal nutritionist who invested Fab stock 25 years ago, will be attending – all the way from Western Australia.

Mr Walker said he hoped farmers would take the opportunity to talk with Mr Harvey about their nutritional requirements.

“The Surf’s up will also be covering all bases in animal husbandry, Merchandise manager Peter Thornton said he looked forward to talking to people about its range of products including information on lice and worm management, supplementing stock, animal handling equipment, husbandry equipment and tags.

“We pride ourselves on helping people with lice management and tags,” Mr Thornton said.

“The competition is open to all woolgrowers with separate sections for stud and commercial growers.

“There will be one class judged using objective measurements, and it’s judged on a commercial value basis.

However, Mr Cooper said the majority of the show was judged using the traditional scoring system, taking into account such things as weight, quality, length and strength – all subjective, not objective, measurements.

“I do encourage people to consider entering,” Mr Cooper said.

At the Furney’s CRT site there will be several other companies represented: Ancare Australia (drenches), Arrow Farmquip (yard designs and animal husbandry equipment), Coopers Animal Health (lice), Leader Products (tags), Lienerts Australia (animal supplements) Rapid Plas (tanks, troughs and cup and saucers), Waratah (fencing) and Virbac (drenches).

“We would prefer logistically if you can just turn up, and we’re happy to take people’s entries, “ Mr Cooper said.

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“Aussie Rural retail manager Margaret Brown was also on board and would be selling a wide range of general farm items including pregnancy scanners, tag readers, electric fencing and show halters.

“The Australian Wool Network’s Central West NSW regional manager Brett Cooper said the farm expo was a positive step.

“Dubbo has been crying out for some extra input. I think the committee should be commended for what they’re doing,” Mr Cooper said.

“It’s also got the support of leading agents with Landmark’s David Hart, among those full of praise.

“The committee needs to be congratulated for trying new things,” Mr Hart said.

Spectacular array of fleeces on display

DUBBO is host to one of Australia’s premier wool shows, which is held as part of the Rabobank National Merino Sheep Show and Ram Sale agenda.

Chief steward Brett Cooper, Australian Wool Network (AWN), said he hoped to see about 150 fleeces entered in this year’s AWN Open Fleece Show.

Fleeces are being entered from across NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

“We get over 150 entries it will certainly make a good spectacle, and it’s a great display of wool,” Mr Cooper said.

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However, Mr Cooper said the majority of the show was judged using the traditional scoring system, taking into account such things as weight, quality, length and strength – all subjective, not objective, measurements.

“I do encourage people to consider entering,” Mr Cooper said.

“It’s built-up to being one of the premier wool shows in the country,” Mr Cooper said.

Organisers will accept fleece entries up until 10am on the first day of the event, Tuesday, August 27.

However, Mr Cooper said he recommended people got their fleeces in by Monday, August 26, from midday at the showground.

“You can just turn up, and we’re happy to take people’s entries,” Mr Cooper said.

“We would prefer logistically if people could have their fleeces there on Monday, which allows us time to weigh them and have them prepared for judging on the Tuesday,”

There will be two judges: Mark Hedley from AWN Goulburn and Ron Creek from AWN Victoria.

“The suit length has certainly been fairly well sought after with a value of approximately $750,” Mr Cooper said.

Fleeces will be judged Tuesday, August 27 and on display during the sheep show and ram sale, which runs until Thursday, August 29.