

MWGA Speed Shear Competition and Calcutta Raises \$3,425 for USA Shearing Team

The Annual MWGA Speed Shear Competition and Calcutta is one of the most anticipated events of the Wool Grower Convention. Every year, high quality shearers from around the state and region participate in the annual event to see who can come out on top as the fastest shearer. Each two-person team is auctioned off to the highest bidder in the Calcutta and then the fun begins. The fastest shearing time was recorded by Alex Moser of Iowa. Alex is part of the 5-person team that will be representing USA at the Golden Shears World Championships in Southland, New Zealand in February 2017. Through a portion of the payout from the Calcutta, and the generous crowd donating money to the cause, MWGA was able to raise \$3,425 to help the shearers make the trip.

This year's team representing the USA is made up of the following individuals, proudly representing 5 states and utilizing talent from multiple regions.

Machine Shearing

Alex Moser- Lester, Iowa

Loren Opstedahl- Piedmont, South Dakota

Blade Shearing

Kevin Ford- Charlemont, Massachusetts

Loren Opstedahl- Piedmont, South Dakota

Wool Handling

Leanne Brimmer- Biddle, Montana

Maggie Passino- Charlottesville, Virginia

MWGA would like to thank all those that participated and helped run the successful shearing event and live auction, including Wade Kopren, Bronson Smith, Brent Roeder, and Mike Schuldt. We would also like to thank Western Ranch Supply for generously sponsoring the "Watering Hole" for the event and for Superior Farms for donating the lamb sliders.

MWGA would also like to thank the following businesses for sponsoring the 133rd Annual Montana Wool Growers Convention: Northwest Farm Credit Services, Bank of Baker, First Interstate Bank, CHS Nutrition, Great Plains Wool Co., West Feeds, Center of the Nation Wool, Montana Livestock Ag Credit, Superior Farms, Wyoming Livestock Roundup, Sieben Ranch, Animal Health International, PAYS, Northern Livestock Video Auction, C&B Operations-Yellowstone County Implement and Horizon Implement, Bank of the Rockies, Nickels Gaming, and Sieben Live Stock Co.