

# Trailing of the Sheep Festival



**FESTIVAL DATES: OCTOBER 7-11, 2020**

*"To gather, present, and preserve the history and cultures of sheepherding in Idaho and the West"*

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**Contact:** Laura Musbach Drake, [laura@trailingofthesheep.org](mailto:laura@trailingofthesheep.org) ([www.trailingofthesheep.org](http://www.trailingofthesheep.org)), 208.720.0585

## **OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: 2020 TRAILING OF THE SHEEP FESTIVAL CANCELLED**

The Board of Directors of the Trailing of the Sheep Festival has announced cancellation of the 2020 Festival. "We made this decision with great thought and heavy hearts, but we have a moral obligation for the safety of everyone involved to cancel this year's event due to the COVID-19 public health pandemic," said Board President, John Peavey. "But we will be back, better than ever, to celebrate our milestone 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 6-10, 2021!" he added.

The Festival board, staff & team are aware of the implications of this decision including the inability to celebrate, gather together, educate as well as the loss of the annual \$4.5 million economic impact the event has on the community. "It is our hope that you support the local community any way you can and celebrate the sheep in your own way as you see them passing through town," said Peavey. "The sheep trailing tradition has been going on in the Wood River Valley for over 150 years and since we can't formally celebrate this 24<sup>th</sup> year of the Festival in our typical grand style, we hope you will capture your favorite photos and create your own memories."

In the meantime, Festival organizers invite everyone to enjoy reading the history of the sheep industry on the web site, stay healthy, wear a mask, buy, cook, and enjoy American Lamb. "The lamb industry was hit especially hard when people could not dine at restaurants due to closure," said Festival Executive Director, Laura Musbach Drake. "As it is possible, we encourage you to again enjoy lamb dishes from your favorite eatery. It is also a great time to prepare lamb at home and the American Lamb Board's web site is full of cooking tips and tasty recipes," she added.

Details on the Festival's plans for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, October 6-10, 2021, will be posted at [www.trailingofthesheep.org](http://www.trailingofthesheep.org).

### ***More About the Festival***

*The Trailing of the Sheep Festival will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> year, October 6–10, 2021, in the picturesque Wood River Valley of Idaho. Each Fall, the popular Festival celebrates the 150+ year tradition of moving sheep ('trailing') from high mountain summer pastures down through the Valley to traditional winter grazing and lambing areas in the south. This annual migration is Idaho living history and a family-friendly festival (with estimated attendance of 25,000 people) that highlights the people, arts, cultures, and traditions of sheep ranching in Idaho and the West.*