American Herding Breed Association
Herding Trials
Saturday & Sunday November 14 & 15, 2026

Back Porch Herding, Inc.

Hosted at
Middle Tree Farm
340 Old Cedar Rd
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Open to all eligible AHBA breeds as allowed by AHBA rules

Trial Site Hours – 7:30AM to one hour after trial is completed
These events will be held outdoors rain or shine

One of each level offered for each trial
HRD mixed stock (sheep-geese) 5 head each
HTAD (course 5) Sheep (4 head)
HTAD (course 2) ducks (4 head)
HTAD (course 2) geese (4 head)
JHD Geese , sheep (3 head)
HCT sheep (3 head)

HRD sheep/geese classes are limited to 6 runs per day
HTAD sheep classes are limited to 3 runs per day
HTAD duck classes are limited to 15 runs per day
HTAD geese classes are limited to 6 runs per day
JHD geese sheep classes are limited to 6 runs each per day
HCT sheep classes are limited to 3 runs per day

JUDGES:
Saturday – Claire Apple
Sunday – Amy Barrett

First handlers' meeting will begin at 9:00AM.
For more information: John Amsden 336 317-5638 johnamsden99@gmail.com
ENTRIES: No opening date, pre-entries must be received by **Monday, November 9th, 2026**

FEES:
HRD sheep/geese $45
HTAD sheep $45
HTAD ducks $45
HTAD geese $45
All HCT and JHD classes $35

Same day entries will be accepted 830AM – 9:00AM each day if space available.
Additional $10.00 per class for entries or funds received after the **closing date of Monday, November 9th, 2026.**
Paypal options are available: use the "to friends or family" option (no fee) -or- add 3 percent to the total. Paypal account is johnamsden99@gmail.com. You can also fill out the entry form, take a picture of it and email it to johnamsden99@gmail.com

– or -

Make checks payable to Back Porch Herding mail along with completed AHBA entry form to:
John Amsden
1122 Red Lane Rd.
Pleasant Garden, NC 27313

There will be a $25.00 service charge for any returned checks.

POLICIES:

- This trial shall be run under all AHBA rules and regulations. FMI: www.ahba-herding.org
- Use official AHBA entry form
- Each individual is responsible for any damage caused by himself, his family or his dog while in the trial arena or on the trial grounds.
- Livestock replacement costs are as follows: Ducks $50.00, Geese $75.00, sheep $300.00

AHBA, Back Porch Herding, Middle tree Farm, Caroline Betts and all trial workers assume no responsibility for any accident or injury.

- Bitches in season will run last. They should be crated away from trial arenas when not competing.
- All dogs must be on leash when not competing.
- Entry confirmation will be sent by email; please be sure to include your email address.
- Trial committee will draw run order prior to the trial.
- Entry fees will only be refunded if request is received on or before pre-entry closing date (**Monday, November 9th, 2026**).

AWARDS (available at trial only) - (including but not limited to)

- Green flat ribbons for all qualifying runs
- flat ribbons for 1st thru 4th (rosettes available for pictures)
- HIT rosette Reserve HIT Rosette
- New Title rosettes for any new title. Just let us know
- Herding Trial Champion rosettes also available if you complete your title with us!

Veterinarian: VSH of the Carolinas

6405 Tyron Rd, Cary, NC 27518 (919) 233-4911

Concessions: Light snacks will be provided. Please bring your own lunch.

Hotels:

La Quinta Inn & Suites Cary – 919-851-2850 (~35 minutes)
Holiday Inn Express Suites Sanford – 919-776-6600 (~35 minutes)
Red Roof Inn Chapel Hill UNC – 919-489-9421 (~35 minutes)
Motel 6 – Raleigh SW/Cary – 919-467-6171 (~40 minutes)
Roof Inn Raleigh NCSU – 919-469-3400 (~40 minutes)
Days Inn 1515 E 11th St, Siler City, NC 27344 (919) 663-2511 (~18 minutes)
Hampton Inn in Pittsboro. 919-542-4284 (~14 minutes)
please call to confirm

Camping

Jordan Lake https://www.ncparks.gov/jordan-lake-state-recreation-area/camping (-25 minutes)
they are open at this time of year – **please call to confirm** – gated campground – gate opens at 8:00 A.M.(**to let you out**)

DIRECTIONS TO TRIAL SITE

From Highway US 64 (traveling East)
from the junction of US 421 and US 64 for 8.9 mi. Turn right onto Alex Cockman rd. for 2.2 mi. Turn left on Alston Chp rd. for 1.8 mi. Turn left on Old Cedar Rd and travel 0.3 mi to end.

From US 64 (traveling West)
take exit 368 (bus 64) 3.5 mi. Turn left onto NC-87 S/NC-902 W .2 mi.
Turn right onto Old Goldston Rd 0.4 mi. Turn right onto Alston Chapel Rd 3.2 mi. Turn right onto Old Cedar Dr drive 0.3 mi to end.

From US 501 (traveling North)
Turn left onto N Carolina 87 Bypass/NC-87 0.7 mi. Turn left onto Old Goldston Rd 0.3 mi.
Turn left onto Alston Chapel Rd 3.2 mi. Turn right onto Old Cedar Dr 0.3 mi drive to end

From US 501 (traveling South)
At the traffic circle in Pittsboro, take the 1st exit onto US-64 BUS W 0.5 mi. turn left onto NC-87 S/NC-902 W 0.2 mi.
Turn right onto Old Goldston Rd 0.4 mi. Turn right onto Alston Chapel Rd 3.2 mi. Turn right onto Old Cedar Dr drive 0.3 mi to end.

From NC 87 (traveling South)

At the traffic circle in Pittsboro, take the 2nd exit and stay on NC-87 S 0.4 mi. Turn right onto Old Goldston Rd 0.4 mi.
Turn right onto Alston Chapel Rd 3.2 mi. Turn right onto Old Cedar Dr drive 0.3 mi to end.

Using a GPS works fine.

AHBA SANCTIONED HERDING TEST AND TRIAL NAME OF CLUB or PERSON(S) Sponsoring this Event: Back Porch Herding, Inc.
Location: Middle Tree Farm 340 Old Cedar Rd. Pittsboro, NC 27312

Dates of Event: Saturday and Sunday November14 & 15, 2026 - Pre entries deadline **(Monday, November 9th, 2026)**. Add additional $10.00 per class for entries or funds received after the closing date of, **(Monday, November 9th, 2026)**.

Paypal options are available: use the "to friends or family" option (no fee) -or- add 3 percent to the total. Paypal account is johnamsden99@gmail.com. You can also fill out the entry form, take a picture of it and email it to johnamsden99@gmail.com

– or -

Make checks or money orders payable in US funds to: **Back Porch Herding**
Send to the Trial Secretary **John Amsden 1122 Red Lane Rd. Pleasant Garden, NC 27313**

ELIGIBILITY
All dogs nine months of age or older are eligible to participate in Herding Trials and JHD. Dogs classified as Herding Dogs in AHBA are eligible for HERDING TEST (HCT) and may participate at six months of age or older. No dog may be entered in two classes on the same course with the same kind of stock under the same judge at any Test/Trial. Bitches in season shall run last.

IMPORTANT. READ THIS BEFORE SIGNING.
In consideration for participation in an event sanctioned by the American Herding Breed Association (AHBA), I agree to assume all responsibility for any claim, loss or damage, of whatever kind or nature, whether to person or property, which may be caused at or near this event, either directly or indirectly, by me or the dog or dogs I have entered in or brought to this event. I further agree that I will hold the AHBA, its officers, directors, agents and members, Back Porch Herding and Caroline Betts harmless and defend them from any and all liability for any injury, claim, damage or loss, of whatever kind or nature, whether to person or property, caused at or near this event, whether directly or indirectly, by me or any dog I have entered in or brought to this event. I agree to indemnify the AHBA, its officers, directors, agents and members for any loss, cost or expense including attorneys' fees and costs, to which the AHBA, its officers, directors, agents or members might be subject as a result of any claim, suit, loss or damage caused in any way by any act or negligence on my part or on the part of any dog or dogs I have entered in or brought to this event. I acknowledge that while the AHBA may provide sanctioning for this event with regard to the issuing of titles, it does not have and does not exercise control over the conduct of the event or those present.
I CERTIFY and represent that the dog or dogs I have entered in or brought to this event is/are not a hazard to other dogs, other animals, or to people.
I CERTIFY that I am the actual owner of the dog or that I am the duly authorized agent of the actual owners whose name I have entered. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I (we) agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the AHBA in effect at the time of this Herding Test or Trial or both, and further agree to be bound by the agreement printed above. The entry is submitted on the foregoing representation and agreement.

Signature of Owner &/or Agent: _____
Please enter one dog per Entry Form. Please circle the trial and class and level you wish to enter.

Saturday Nov 14, 2026

Stock: Sheep/Geese	Class: HRD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1020
Stock: Sheep	Class: HTAD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1021
Stock: Geese	Class: HTAD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1022
Stock: Ducks	Class: HTAD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1023
Stock: Geese	Class: JHD		Fee: $35	1024
Stock: Sheep	Class: JHD		Fee: $35	1025
Stock: Sheep	Class: HCT		Fee: $35	1026

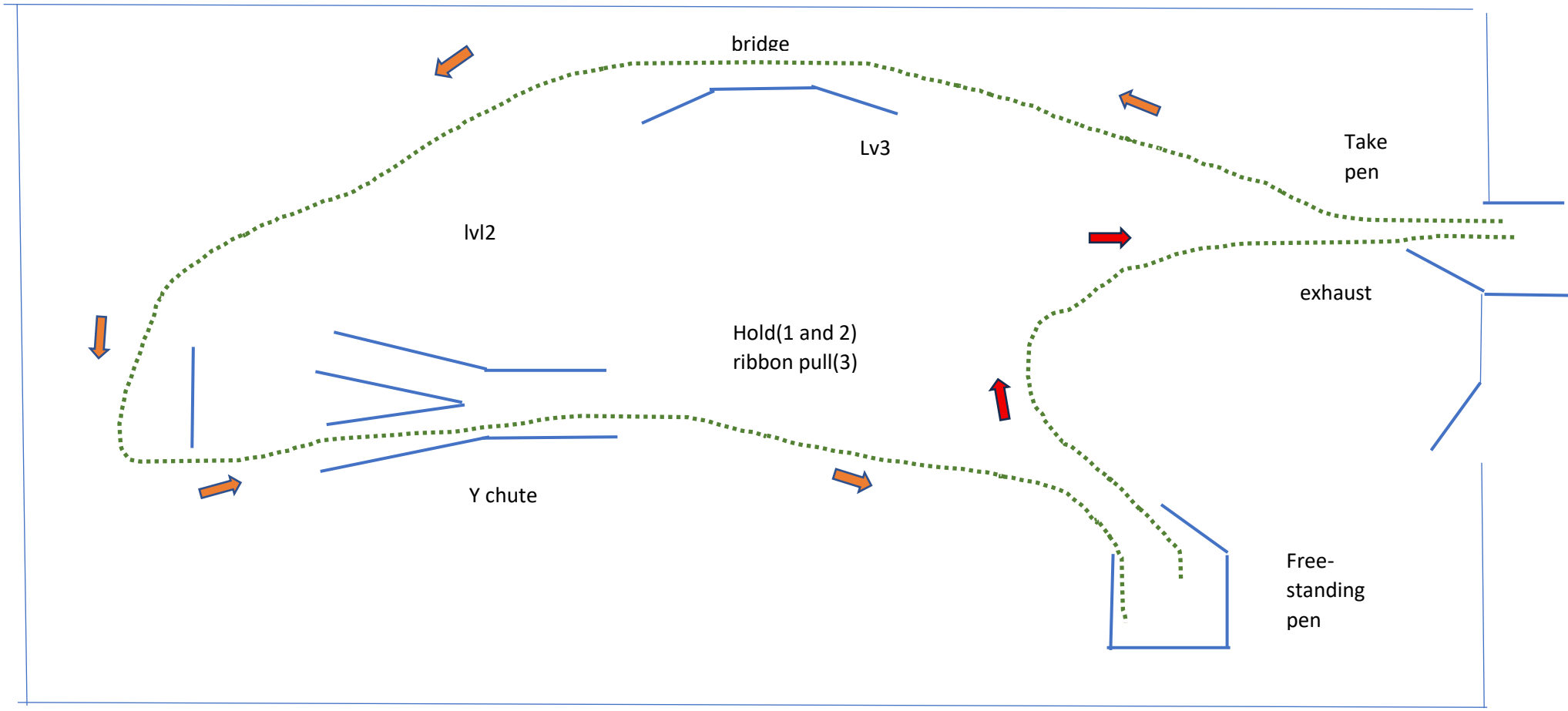
Sunday Nov 15, 2026

Stock: Sheep/Geese	Class: HRD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1030
Stock: Sheep	Class: HTAD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1031
Stock: Geese	Class: HTAD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1032
Stock: Ducks	Class: HTAD	Level: 1 2 3	Fee: $45	1033
Stock: Geese	Class: JHD		Fee: $35	1034
Stock: Sheep	Class: JHD		Fee: $35	1035
Stock: Sheep	Class: HCT		Fee: $35	1036
		Total		

NOTE: A dog must be entered in the name of the person(s) who actually owns it at the time entries are made for the Herding Test or Trial.
A Registration and Registration number or Tracking Number must be included.

Actual owner(s):			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Country:
Telephone:		Email:	
Agent's name (if applicable):		Telephone (Agent only):	
Email (Agent only):			
Full name of Dog:			
Registration Number OR Tracking Number:		Registry:	Date of Birth:
Place of Birth {☐} USA	{☐} Canada	{☐} Other	
Breed:	Variety:		Sex:
Breeder:			
Call Name:			

HTAD sheep – course 5 middle tree farm Fall 2026



Legend: Lvl2 & lvl3 where they remain after exiting the bridge

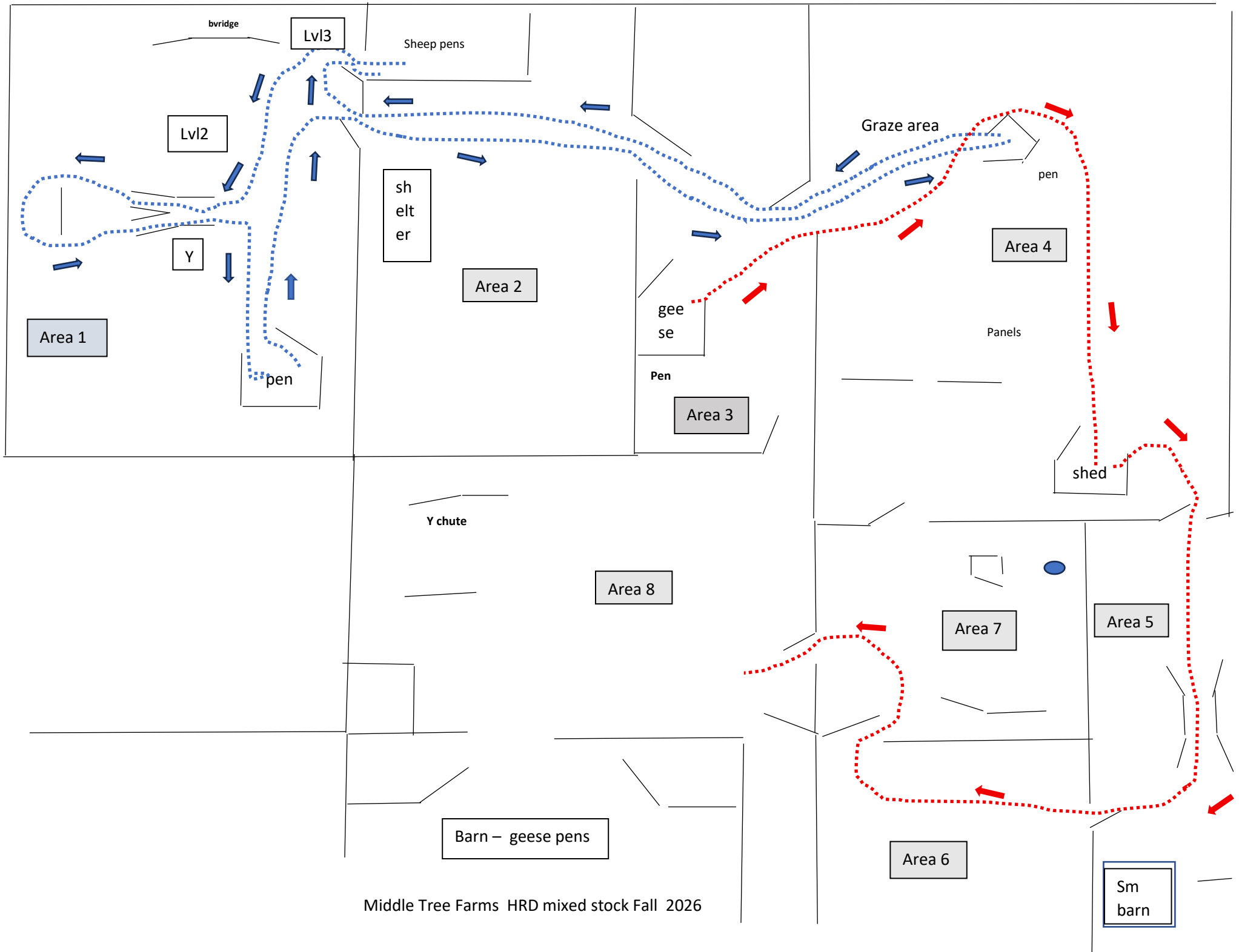
MTF HTAD sheep course 5 instructions Fall 2026

	points level 1 & 2	level 3
Take Pen. Level 1 – Handler and dog can enter pen Level 2 & 3 – Handler cannot enter pen Sheep are to be moved out of pen quietly and then covered	20	20
Move stock over bridge All handlers wait at entrance of bridge until stock has exited the bridge Level 1 handlers may then move with stock Level 2 handler may then move to (and **remain** at) ½ distance to (upper) branch of Y (see "lvl2") Level 3 handler r**emains** at entrance point of bridge (see "lvl3") until stock exits the Y	15	15
Move stock (counter clockwise) around panel and through the (lower) branch of the Y level 1 handle may move with stock level 2 and 3 handlers may move with stock when stock exits the panel	15	20
At approximately the halfway point to the free-standing pen level 1 and 2 handlers do a hold and wait for the judge to release. Level 3 does a ribbon pull	10	15
move the stock into the pen and close the gate	10	10
release the stock, move them to the take pen area and quietly exhaust them	20	20

Level 1 & 2 90 points level 3 100 points

Tie breakers: Course time: 10 minutes

1) Take Pen
2) Free standing Pen
3) Time



Middle Tree Farms HRD mixed stock Fall 2026

Middle tree farm HRD multi stock (sheep/geese) course instructions Fall 2026

	points level 1 & 2	level 3
Sheep		
Take Pen Level 1 – Handler and dog can enter pen Level 2 & 3 – Handler cannot enter pen Stock are to be moved out of pen quietly and then covered	10	10
Level 1 handler – may move with stock Level 2 handler may move halfway to stem of Y (see lvl2) Level 3 handler must stay at take pen (see (lvl3) Move stock in through stem of Y and out through upper end of the Y, around the panel and back through the lower end of the Y. level 2 & 3 handlers may move freely when any stock has entered stem of the Y	10	15
Move stock into free-standing pen and shut the gate.	10	10
Release the stock from the pen and move stock out of Area1, through Area2, through Area3 and into Area 4.	10	10
Move stock into free-standing pen and shut the gate	10	10
Geese		
Release the stock from the pen in Area 3 and shut the gate Move the stock through the gate and into Area 4 and (clockwise) around the free-standing pen.	10	10
Level 1 handler can move with stock and move stock into the shed, hold until judge releases them, then move the stock to and through the gate into Area 5 and close the gate Level 2 can move halfway to shed, then drive the stock into the shed, walk up to the shed and hold them until judge releases them, then move the stock to and through the gate into Area 5 and close the gate Level 3 handler remains at pen, then drives stock into the shed and lies down dog to hold them. Handler walks up to and opens the gate into Area 5, then returns to shed and has dog move stock through gate into Area 5 and shuts gate.	10	15
Move the stock through the bridge, to and through the gate into area 6, close the gate, then to and through the gate into area 7 and close the gate, exhaust the stock through the gate into Area 8 and shut the gate	10	10
Sheep		
Release the stock from the free-standing pen Move the stock through the gate into Area 3 and shut the gate Level 1 and 2 – do a hold and wait for the judge to release you. Level 3 – pull the colored ribbon from the stock Move the stock through Area 2, into Area 1, exhaust into the Take Pen and close all open gates	10	10

Level1 & 2 90 points level 3 100 points

Tie breakers: Sheep take pen, sheep exhaust pen, time course time 20 minutes