

Minnesota Lamb & Wool
Producers Association

Shepherds' Bulletin

Legislative Issue

Fall 2000

President's Column

By Mike Haubrich

As I write this column, harvest is about over. At harvest time, farmers are rewarded for their labor with a bountiful harvest. Help from God, hard work, perseverance, and a little bit of good luck are all needed for a plentiful yield. Harvest time is a time to give thanks. The sheep industry has many areas that it needs to be thankful for in the past few years. Lamb prices have been fairly steady and pelt prices have recovered. Mild winters and abundant crops reduced feed costs, keeping sheep production profitable.

There has also been a lot of hard work and dedication provided to the sheep industry the past few years. And, with a little bit of luck thrown in, the sheep industry has been very successful. No, I'm not talking about a high lamb crop, it is work in the legislative area. The industry has been very successful in its ability to secure federal support for the sheep industry.

The American Sheep Industry Association, which you are a member of when you pay your state dues, has been working hard for the sheep industry. Without ASI, there would not have been a successful 201 case against imports. Only through ASI were we able to get the Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program. This benefited the entire sheep industry.

With wool prices at record lows, the ASI was able to help producers by getting market loss assistance payments for wool produced in 1999 and again in

2000. The ASI was also able to secure funding to support the American Wool Council for the next 4 years and continued funding for Wildlife Services.

Federal support of our industry doesn't just happen – it takes hard work, dedication and a financial commitment from us, the sheep producer. When you get that LMAAP check for 20% cost share on your facility improvements, that check for \$100 for every ram you purchased for breeding in 1999 and 2000, and that check for 20 cents per pound of wool produced in 1999 – think about who helped you get those checks. It is time to help ourselves for the future and support the ASI.

I know I'm preaching to the choir; you are a member - you pay your dues. Now is the time for each of us to make telephone calls to others that raise sheep. The ones that take advantage of the programs our membership dollars generate, but do not pay the dues. Many of them will gladly help out, but they don't know that it is our state dues in ASI that pays for the ASI legislative efforts. It is up to us, the members, to help keep the ASI going.

There is no better place for sheep producers to meet and discuss issues important to our industry than at the MLWPA Conference and Trade Show. I look forward to seeing you there and celebrating sheep industry successes this past year.

Don't Forget!
Dec. 1 - 2 MLWPA Conference & Trade Show,
Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN

Wool & Mohair Market Loss Assistance Program (Source: ASI)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has distributed the notice for wool producers to receive wool payments under the Wool and Mohair Market Loss Assistance Program, which was part of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act 2000 approved by Congress last May. Approximately \$11 million was allocated for wool payments, which will be paid at a rate of 20 cents per pound on the 1999 clip.

Sign up for the wool payments began October 10, 2000, and continues through December 29, 2000. According to USDA, program payments won't actually be made until the program regulations are published in the Federal Register. Program applications may be picked up at your local Farm Services Agency office.

Eligible wool or mohair must have been shorn in the United States, and livestock must have been owned for 30 days or more prior to shearing. The wool or mohair must have been produced during the 1999 marketing year. The payment rates are: 20 cents per pound for wool; 40 cents per pound for mohair. ASI was instrumental in obtaining this wool funding and making members of Congress aware of the current depressed state of the wool industry. In 1999, the average price of wool was just 38 cents per pound, the lowest price in history when adjusted for inflation.

ASI is disappointed the wool payment program does not include unshorn lamb calculations. "It would have been better if USDA had stuck by its August announcement to also include unshorn lamb calculations," said ASI Executive Director Peter Orwick. "Although producers were told at our August board meeting that such calculations would be included, USDA has since told us that they do not have the legal authority to do so."

Ag Appropriations Includes Many Benefits for Sheep Producers (source: ASI)

The fiscal year (FY) 2001 Appropriations for Agriculture bill recently approved by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives contains many excellent benefits for U.S. sheep producers, including \$20 million for emergency economic loss payments to wool and mohair producers. The wool payments will be made at a rate of 40 cents per pound based on the 2000 clip for both wool and mohair. This much-needed program builds on the important relief gained by the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) for 1999 wool and mohair production. Producers are currently in the sign-up phase for payments on the 1999 clip. Actual payments will be made as soon as the program notice is published in the Federal

Register, which is expected to occur in November. Sign up for payments for the 2000 clip is expected to follow later this fall/winter at local county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.

"Obtaining a second year of wool payments is yet another example of how ASI is working hard on behalf of sheep producers," said Cindy Siddoway, ASI President. The bill also provides: an additional \$5 million for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; more than \$3 million for USDA Scrapie control; authority to the Secretary to enter contracts for grazing to reduce fuel and fire threats; continued \$300,000 for wool research; additional operations and research funding for Wildlife Services of nearly \$10

million, including the rabies and the wolf programs; and \$490 million for livestock assistance due to disaster.

Of specific importance to the sheep industry is an amendment to the Animal Damage Control Act of 1931 introducing language that will no doubt frustrate animal rights attacks on Wildlife Services Agency programs for livestock protection. The language requires that all authorities of the Wildlife Services program be implemented, preventing individual programs to be singled out, as animal rights groups have sought in the past. The 2001 Agricultural Appropriations bill has been sent to President Clinton for his anticipated approval.

Youth Scholarships & Awards

Minnesota Sheep Producers Can Apply for Silver Bell Awards

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers are taking applications for producer awards that represent excellence in modern sheep production. The awards are 2000 Silver Bell and Junior Silver Bell Awards. The applications are due by Nov. 15, and presentation of the awards will take place at the MLWP Conference & Trade Show Dec. 1-2.

The Silver Bell Awards go annually to one or two top Minnesota sheep producers. Selection criteria include flock size, lambing and weaning rate, lamb and wool production, and net return per ewe. In addition, the selection committee will consider less tangible factors such as adoption of new technology and enthusiasm for sheep production.

If you interested in applying for a Silver Bell Award or know someone you believe should apply, you can obtain an application from your county office of the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Applications are also available by calling Robert F. Padula at (320) 269-6521. Applications should be returned by Nov. 15 to Robert F. Padula, Chippewa County Extension Office, 629 North 11th St., Montevideo, MN 56265.

Two Scholarships Sponsored by Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association

The Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association is sponsoring two \$100 scholarships for Minnesota 4-H and FFA youth towards the purchase of a registered Suffolk ewe at the Minnesota Bred Ewe Sale held in Rochester on November 25, 2000 at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds, Rochester, MN. To apply, the student should submit an essay indicating their interest and goals with respect to Suffolk sheep. Mail to: Dan Pesch, President of the MN Suffolk Sheep Association, 4731 Hwy 247 NE, Elgin, MN 55932. Entries must be postmarked by November 15, 2000.

Hampshire Sheep Scholarships

The Minnesota Hampshire Sheep Association will award four \$100 Young Shepherds scholarships to Minnesota youth interested in starting or expanding a sheep project. The scholarships are to be applied toward the purchase of a registered Hampshire breeding ewe or ewe lamb at the Minnesota Bred Ewe Sale in Rochester, MN., Saturday, November 25, 2000. Any interested youth between the ages of 6 to 18 may apply for a scholarship by sending a one page essay which contains the following information:

1. Why do I want to raise Hampshire sheep.
2. How will I take care of my sheep.
3. What will I do to improve and promote Hampshire sheep and the sheep industry.

Be sure to include applicant's name, address, age and phone number. Applications are due by November 8, 2000. Send to: Dale Carter, 26708 Co. Rd. 10, Starbuck, MN 56381.

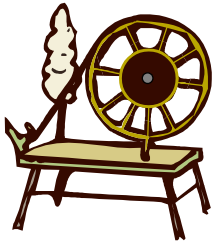
MN Forage & Grassland Council To Sponsor Award

The Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council is offering one \$500 post-secondary scholarship to be awarded in the Spring of 2001. Candidates must either be attending a post-secondary educational program or be in their senior year of high school, and preferably already accepted into, or have applied for, a post-secondary accredited educational program providing a 4-year bachelor's degree, 2-year association degree, or technical certification, in an agriculture related discipline.

Eligible candidates must be a member of the immediate family of a current member of MFGC during both the year of application and the year of award. (Contact the MN Forage and Grassland Council at 651-436-3930 to request an application form for those who are interested in applying for the scholarship and are not a member, or to receive more scholarship information.) Applications must be submitted no later than March 1, 2001. Award winner will be notified by April 1, 2001.

Commercial Booth at MN State Fair A Success (by Roger Karstens)

The commercial booth at the 2000 State Fair set a record in sales. This in turn set a record for proceeds returned to MLWP, as a percentage of sales is returned to MLWP. We will need more of these fundraising projects for MLWP to exist; membership alone will never be enough to stay solvent. Those with ideas need to step forward and present what they think will work for funding MLWP. MLWP also needs people willing to work on projects. This is a challenge. Are there any of our members willing to accept this challenge?



Spinning Contest To Be Held at MLWP Conference & Trade Show

A spinning contest will be held at Morton, MN on December 1, 2000 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Conference & Trade Show. The contest will be open to teams of 4 beginning with raw wool and taking it through the carding process and ending with the finished wool product.

Cash prizes will be awarded. Teams need to contact Gene Holmquist, Route 3, Box 60, Okabena, MN 56161 or e-mail at gsh@rconnect.com for rules and registration.



Trade & Craft Show

A trade and craft show is also being planned for the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Conference & Trade show on December 1 and 2, 2000 with equipment, livestock health and craft vendors participating. Any vendor interested in participating can contact Gene Holmquist, Route 3 Box 60, Okabena, MN 56161 or e-mail at gsh@rconnect.com for further information.

Sheep Facility Dedicated to Harley Hanke and Robert Jordan

On September 16, a dedication ceremony of the West Central Research and Outreach Center's renovated sheep facility took place. Held in conjunction with the WCROC Sheep/Grazing Day, the event honored Drs. Harley Hanke and Robert Jordan, professors emeritus in the Department of Animal Science. About 60 people attended the dedication of the Harley Hanke-Robert Jordan Sheep Research Facility, which will serve as the University of Minnesota and WCROC's primary sheep

research facility for its 350-ewe flock and as a site for conducting research on page 3 and finishing. Jordan and Hanke worked together on sheep research for decades and served as leaders in this research area in the state, region, and nation. They also cooperated on beef, dairy, and swine research.

Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program

Reminder that beginning August 1, 2000 through July 31, 2002 feeder lambs and slaughter lambs meeting the criteria outlined in the LMAAP are eligible for program payments. Sheep producers must contact their lamb buyers or marketing agencies to determine what procedures they need to follow in order to be eligible for payments. If you sell lambs directly to consumers, there is a provision allowing small processing facilities to certify eligible lamb carcass.

Your local FSA Office has the ability to print off the program procedures or you may access the information at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/201lamb/201.htm>. There will be a session at the MLWP Conference & Trade Show on the LMAAP program and the new wool programs.

University of MN Extension Teamwork Award Recipients Announced

The Sheep Education Series work team received the University of MN Extension Teamwork Award at the Annual Awards Banquet of Extension Educators. Team members were Extension Educators Bernie O'Rourke, McLeod Co.; Maribell Fernandez, Wright Co.; Jeremy Geske, Dakota Co.; Bob Padula, Chippewa Co.; Dave Resch, Scott Co.; Shirley Doering, Blue Earth Co., along with Dr. Bill Head, Sheep Scientist, WCROC, Morris; Greg Cuomo, Forage Agronomist, WCROC, Morris; Dr. Cindy Wolf, Small Ruminant Specialist, U of MN College of Vet Medicine; Mike Haubrich, President, MN Lamb and Wool Producers.

Team goals were to provide sheep producers with timely, research-based information allowing them to learn new information and make management changes resulting in increased productivity and/or profit potential for their sheep enterprises. The timing of the programs allows producers to immediately implement research based information, and take advantage of the new USDA Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program. Other goals included that participants would be more likely to utilize the University of MN Extension Service as a resource for sheep production information; that producers would have input into the planning of future workshops, and that the sheep workshops would provide educational opportunities for both youth and adults.

Membership Benefits of MLWP

1. **Communication of Current News:** Shepherds' Bulletin (state wide); Sheep Industry News (national); Member of Sheep Industry Journal (regional newspaper)
2. **Producer Education:** MLWP Conference & Trade Show; Shepherds' Harvest Festival; University of Minnesota Extension Service programs.
3. **Discounted Prices:** MLWP Conference & Trade Show Registration; Sheep Supplies (Livestock Concepts & Wooltique); Sheep Equipment (Sydell & ForMost Equipment Company); Sheep Novelty Items (The Sheep Station)
4. **Public Image Promotion:** State Fair – Sheep Barn Baa Booth, Sheep Shearing Contest, Commercial Sales Booth (aligned with the business sector); Shepherds' Harvest Festival; MLWP Lamb Cookout & Information Booth; Events include: sheep related booths, educational seminars, displays
5. **Youth Programs:** Minnesota Ag Ambassador Institute (includes animal rights training sessions, tour to grain exchange for ag youth); 4-H State Fair awards.
6. **Legislative Activity:** Minnesota's ASI dues fund national and state legislative activity
7. **Membership Directory**
8. **Free Listing for Direct Marketers or Lamb & Wool Products:** distributed at the Minnesota State Fair Baa Booth.

Please join our flock – become a member. You may use the MLWPA Conference and Trade show Registration Form to pay your 2001 dues.

Lamb Import Restrictions To Remain In Place (source: ASI)

Officials from the U.S. Trade Representatives' office confirmed to U.S. lamb industry representatives that the preliminary report of the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute panel reviewing U.S. tariff rate quotas on lamb meat imports concludes that U.S. measures violate WTO Safeguards agreement. Industry representatives expect U.S. government officials to appeal the WTO panel's decision and vigorously defend President Clinton's decision. A U.S. appeal of the panel's findings would follow the release of the panel's first report this winter. "The trade restrictions and industry assistance package will remain in full effect throughout the appeal process," said Cindy Siddoway, President of the American Sheep Industry Association, "allowing the domestic lamb industry to continue forward with national initiatives and individual efforts to improve the industry's

competitiveness. Meanwhile, the two-tier tariffs and assistance programs will remain in effect while the U.S. government defends the Administration position at the WTO". The U.S. lamb industry strongly supports the President's decision to impose restrictions and lamb meat imports. Industry representatives will testify before the U.S. International Trade Commission on November 16 as part of the commission's mandatory mid-term review of the Section 201 case to ensure continuation of the full import relief program.

**Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers
2000 Conference & Trade Show
December 1 & 2, 2000
Jackpot Junction, Morton, Minnesota**

Friday, December 1:

- | | | |
|------------|--|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Registration Begins | |
| 9:00 a.m. | Spinning Contest Begins – Contact Gene Holmquist | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Trade Show Opens | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Session 1. | Marketing Organic, to be or not to be?
The definitions, challenges and opportunities of choosing Organic
Prescott Berg, Marketing Division, State Department of Agriculture
Ann Woods, Organic Alliance
Organic Growers & Buyers Association |
| | Session 2. | Flock Production & Economic Record Keeping
Bob Padula, Extension Educator – Chippewa County, and Dr. Bill Head, Sheep
Researcher, WCROC, Morris, MN |
| 12:00 a.m. | Lunch – On Your Own | |
| 1:00 p.m. | Session 1. | Ethics and Livestock Production
A Representative of Minnesotans for Responsible Animal Care (MNFRAC) will
discuss the latest ideas of the ethical treatment of farm animals from a producer's
perspective. An excellent program representing an industry response to concerns about
animal production. |
| | Session 2. | Mastitis – Why do our best ewes get it? How can we prevent it?
Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic |
| 2:15 p.m. | Session 1. | What do our lamb buyers want?
Lunds/Byerlys, a longtime Minnesota company, which sells 90% of the lamb in the
Twin Cities, gives us their perspective and outlines a prospective buying arrangement. |
| | Session 2. | Baby Lamb Care Management - Keeping our profit alive
Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic |
| 3:30 p.m. | Session 1. | Direct marketing your own lamb – Minnesota Opportunities
AURI, Minnesota Grown, Producer |
| | Session 2. | “Ask the Vet”
Open forum for veterinary questions |
| 5:30 p.m. | | Wine & Cheese Tasting – Local, Regional and National sheep milk cheeses |
| 6:30 p.m. | | Banquet & Auction |

Saturday, December 2:

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. | Registration Begins | |
| 8:30 a.m. | Session 1. | ASI/NSA Forum –
Short presentation by representatives of each organization of their current activities,
followed by questions from attendees. |
| | Session 2. | Scrapie Update
An open meeting of the Minnesota Scrapie Board, presenting new information relative
to scrapie, i.e. changes in regulations relative to interstate movement of sheep as well as
the voluntary program, new research, other states activities. |
| 9:30 a.m. | | USDA Farm Service Agency Programs & Opportunities For Sheep Producers
Tracy Beckman, State Director of the Farm Service Agency, will discuss new programs,
funding opportunities of the LMAAP, WAMLAP, including availability and procedures. |
| 11:00 a.m. | | Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers |
| 12:15 p.m. | Lunch | Banquet |
| 1:30 p.m. | Session 1. | What is the future of the Sheep Industry and the University of Minnesota? |

Dr. Charles Muscoplat, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Science at the University of Minnesota and Dr. Bill Head, Sheep Scientist, WCROC, Morris, MN, discuss current and planned University efforts in conjunction with the Minnesota sheep industry

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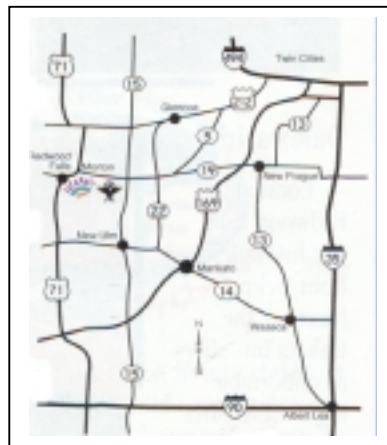
- 2:45 p.m. Session 2. **Nutrition**
 Dr. Randy Gottfredson, University of Wisconsin, discusses sheep nutrition, including basic nutritional concepts, balancing a ration by rule of thumb, alternative feedstuffs and questions from attendees
- Session 1. **Crucial Issues facing Minnesota Shepherds**
 Q & A Legislative Forum
- Session 2. **Ewe Synchronization**
 Dr. Randy Gottfredson, University of Wisconsin, discusses the latest methods and techniques of ewe estrus synchronization and artificial insemination.

Staying at the MLWP Conference & Trade Show

A block of rooms is reserved until 11/13/00

Rates are \$55.00

Contact Jackpot Junction directly at 507-644-3000 and ask for the MLWP rate.



2000 MLWP Shepherd's Conference Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Home # _____ Work # _____ E-mail _____

Flock Description & Size _____

	Members		Non-Members	
	pre-reg.	at door	pre-reg.	at door
MLWP Dues	\$25.00 _____	\$25.00 _____		
Family Registration	\$30.00 _____	\$40.00 _____	\$50.00 _____	\$60.00 _____
Fri. Only Registration	\$15.00 _____	\$20.00 _____	\$25.00 _____	\$30.00 _____
Sat. Only Registration	\$20.00 _____	\$25.00 _____	\$30.00 _____	\$35.00 _____
Youth reg. Per person	_____ x \$ 5.00	\$ 5.00 _____	\$ 5.00 _____	\$ 5.00 _____
Wine & cheese social	_____ x \$ 5.00	\$ 5.00 _____	\$ 5.00 _____	\$ 5.00 _____
Fri. Banquet per person	_____ x \$18.00	\$20.00 _____	\$18.00 _____	\$20.00 _____
Sat. Lunch per person	_____ x \$10.00	\$12.00 _____	\$10.00 _____	\$12.00 _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ \$ _____

***Return by November 17, 2000 to
 Sheryl Hoffman, 22005 County Rd 7, Hutchinson, MN 55350***



Calendar of Events Year 2000 - 2001

November

10th MN Hampshire Sheep
Association scholarships due

15th Deadline for MLWP
Conference & Trade Show
pre-registration

15th Silver Bell applications due

15th MN Suffolk Sheep Association
Scholarship applications due

25th MN Bred Ewe Sale, Olmsted
Co. Fairgrounds, Rochester,
MN

30th MLWP Board meeting

December

1-2 MLWP Conference & Trade
Show, Jackpot Junction,
Morton, MN

January

25-27 "Keep the Momentum Going"
2001 ASI Convention, John
Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel,
Reno, NV

25-28

National Sheep Expositions Assoc

**FOR
SALE**

**Texel cross "Hi-5" bred ewe lambs.
Excellent stock from highly productive
flock. Available after 1/1/01. Lee
McEville (507) 724-2505.**