



Minnesota Lamb & Wool  
Producers Association

# Shepherds' Bulletin

Fall 2002

## MLWPA Officers

President - Mike Haubrich (320) 826-2526  
1st VP - Steven Read (507) 663-9040  
2nd VP - Jeremy Geske (952) 758-7938  
Treasurer - Sheryl Hoffman (320) 587-9238  
Secretary - Julie Schuch (320) 864-5732

## MLWPA Regional Directors

North East - Foster Mooney (651) 257-5079  
North West - Tom Scepaniak (320) 573-2641  
West Central - Bob Padula (320) 269-7973  
South West - Doug Mathias (507) 376-9665  
South East - Robin Schmidt (507) 377-1045  
Metro - Patricia Anderson (952) 447-4148

## Satellite Association Contacts

### *Cannon Valley Sheep Producers*

Karen Geske (952) 758-7938

### *Crow River Lamb & Wool Producers*

George Mead (763) 682-4626

### *Des Moines Valley Lamb & Wool*

Gene Holmquist (507) 853-4409

### *Minnesota Hampshire Association*

Jim Hickman (763) 682-3519

### *Minnesota Suffolk Association*

Dan Pesch (507) 876-2776

### *South East Minnesota Sheep Producers*

Todd Schmidt (507) 377-1045

### *Upper Midwest Dynamic Dorsets*

Deric Sievert (507) 834-6624

### *West Central Sheep Producers*

Judy Johnston (320) 589-1243

## MLWPA Web Address:

**[www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)**

## President's Column

*By Mike Haubrich*

Fall harvest is slowly getting underway and the lamb and wool markets have held up this year. I want to thank everyone that volunteered to help out at the MLWPA commercial booth and the Baa booth at the MN State Fair. Without volunteer help, this organization would not exist.

I want to congratulate all the 4-H and FFA sheep project members for the hard work and effort they put into their sheep projects. Also, thank you to the adult volunteers that help ensure the youth programs are positive educational experiences and continue to exist.

We have a new checkoff program for lamb and a board of directors has recently been announced. Lamb does not promote itself, and the checkoff is a step in the right direction for our industry.

The annual meeting is when we elect Officers and Directors for the organization. This year, there are several positions to fill. Sheryl Hoffman has indicated that she can no longer be the Treasurer for the organization. **Please contact me if you or someone you know would like to be an officer or director of MLWPA.** Satellite and breed associations select their own representatives.

At press time, there is no word on the USDA Wool Marketing Loan Program. We should have the information available by our annual conference.

See you at the Annual Conference and Trade show in Rochester.

## Silver Bell Award Nominations

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Silver Bell Awards are given annually to one or two top sheep producers who are examples of excellence in modern sheep production methods and production levels. Selection criteria include flock size, lambing and weaning rate, lamb and wool production and net return per ewe. In addition, the selection committee will look at less tangible factors such as adopting new technology and a contagious enthusiasm for sheep production. Adult applicants must be members of the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association.

There are separate awards for the following categories: Commercial Flock, Lamb Feeder, Purebred Flock, Youth, and Distinguished Service. Explanations and the selection criteria are available on the MLWP website at: [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org).

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers are currently taking applications for the 2002 Junior and Senior Silver Bell Awards. Applications are due by November 15, 2002; awards will be presented at the Shepherd's Conference December 6 – 7, 2002. Winners will be honored at the Silver Bell Luncheon on Dec. 7. The 2001 winner will also give a presentation at that luncheon.

If you have an interest in applying or know someone whom you believe should apply, we encourage you to obtain and complete the application, which is available by contacting Jeremy Geske at (651) 480-7704 or [geske002@umn.edu](mailto:geske002@umn.edu). Applications should be returned to Jeremy Geske, Dakota County Extension Office, 4100 220<sup>th</sup> ST W, Farmington, MN 55024 by November 15, 2002. Application forms are also available on the website: [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org)

*Help your operation and all of Minnesota's sheep industry and become a member of the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association*

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**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MLWPA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Description of Flock & Breed(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Make \$35 check payable to MLWPA & Mail to:  
MLWPA c/o Patty Anderson  
4145 200th St. E.  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

**FRIEND OF THE MINNESOTA SHEEP INDUSTRY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Web-site Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make \$25 check payable to MLWPA & Mail to:  
MLWPA c/o Patty Anderson  
4145 200th St. E.  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

## 2002 MINNESOTA LAMB &amp; WOOL PRODUCERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**December 6 & 7, 2002**

Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, MN

**Tentative Agenda****Friday December 6, 2002**

- 8:30 a.m.**                    **Registration begins**
- 9:00 a.m.**                    **Trade Show Opens**
- 9:30 a.m.**                    **Welcome**            Mike Haubrich, MLWP President
- 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.**        **Session 1.**            **Farm Bill 2002**  
A specialist from the Farm Service Agency will discuss the 2002 Farm Bill and programs affecting sheep producers.
- 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.**      **Session 2.**            **Prevention & Control of Coccidiosis & Pneumonia in young lambs**  
Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic, will discuss keeping baby lambs alive and healthy.
- 11:45 a.m.**                    **Lunch**                On your own
- 1:00 – 1:45 p.m.**        **Session 3a.**            **Designing a Breeding Program for Your Farm**  
Dr. Jonathan Wheaton, University of Minnesota, will discuss factors to consider when designing and implementing a breeding program.
- Session 3b.**            **Felting and Other Cool Stuff**  
Sue Ross, wool enthusiast, will offer a felting class.
- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.**        **Session 4a.**            **Preventing Abortions**  
Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic, will explain strategies for preventing abortions in your flock.
- Session 4b.**            **Marketing your product**  
Mike Caskey & Dale Carter, the Pipestone Program, will review lamb-marketing options for MN sheep producers.
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.**        **Session 5.**            **Producer Panel – Seasonal Lambing**  
Mike Caskey, John Essame, & Dr. Holly Neaton, producers, will discuss the pros and cons of Winter, Spring, and Fall lambing.
- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**        **Session 6.**            **Wool Processor Panel**  
Representatives from MN wool mills and wool processing companies will discuss their operation and the potential to use Minnesota wool.
- Fleece Competition** – in the Trade Show Room -Sue Ross, wool enthusiast
- 5:30 p.m.**                    **Wine & Cheese Tasting** - in the Trade Show Room  
Patrick Moore, Cheesemonger, Lund's Market, will lead the discussion and tasting of local, regional, and national sheep cheeses.
- 6:30 p.m.**                    **Banquet – followed by Auction**  
Several key legislators have been invited to say a few words at the banquet.

**Saturday, December 7, 2002**

- 8:00 a.m.**                    **Registration begins & Trade Show Opens**
- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**        **Session 1.     Scrapie Update**  
 Dr. Cindy Wolf, University of Minnesota & Dr. John Zack, Board of Animal Health, will provide a wrap-up of year-one of the Scrapie Eradication Program, and offer insight on what MN shepherds can expect in the upcoming year.
- 9:00 a.m. – Noon**        **Youth Program**  
 Shirley Doering, Regional 4-H Extension Educator  
 Youth ages 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in a variety of activities such as felting/weaving, Lamb Lead, sheep knowledge and sheep skill-a-thons.
- 9:15 – 10:00 a.m.**       **Session 2.     Increasing Ewe Productivity and Reducing Feed Costs**  
 Dr. Dave Thomas, University of Wisconsin-Madison sheep specialist, will explain how to get more out of your ewe flock, and how to cut feed costs.
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**      **Session 3.     University of Minnesota Sheep Update**  
 Dr. Abel Ponce de Leon, Animal Science Department Head, will explain how the University will allocate resources to all commodity groups. Dr. Bill Head, WCROC sheep specialist, will give a research update. Drs. Phil Larson & Greg Cuomo will join Abel & Bill to answer questions.
- 11:05 a.m. – Noon**       **MLWP Annual Meeting**
- 12:15 p.m.**                **Silver Bell Luncheon**
- 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.**        **Session 4a.    Marketing Lamb to Ethnic Communities**  
 Mr. Poa Choua Yang, Hmong locker plant, will discuss ways to maximize marketing potential to ethnic groups in your community.
- Session 4b.    Issues Concerning Tail Docking in Sheep**  
 Dr. Dave Thomas, University of Wisconsin-Madison sheep specialist, will review a study on the effects of tail docking in sheep.
- 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.**        **Session 5a.    Cooking with Lamb**  
 A local lamb chef will offer tips of improving your lamb cooking skills.
- Session 5b.    Hand-spinning Class**  
 A local hand-spinner will teach a short hand-spinning class.
- 3:30 – 4:15**                **Session 6     Ask the Vet**  
 Dr. Paula Holthus, Animal Medical Center, will answer your questions on lambing and other sheep health concerns.
- 4:30 p.m.**                **Farewell / Summation / Final Drawing – Home in time for chores.**



**MLWPA Executive Board Highlights**  
**Sat. September 7, 2002 10:00 a.m.**  
**Glencoe Community Center**

Present: Jeremy Geske, Karen Geske, Roger Karstens, Sheryl Hoffman, Robin Schmidt, Todd Schmidt, Bob Padula

Absent: Doug Mathias, Jim Hickman, George Mead, Gene Holmquist, Patti Anderson, Foster Mooney, Tom Scepaniak, Steven Read, Mike Haubrich, Julie Schuch, Deric Sievert

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jeremy Geske called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Glencoe Community Center.

**Secretary's Report**

Karen Geske read the minutes of the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Sheryl is concerned because she received a bill from Doris Mold for the State Fair tickets for the Baa Booth. Sheryl already paid for 40 tickets and she received another bill for 30 tickets. At our last meeting we approved for only 50 tickets. Sheryl will check into this before sending the money for the additional 30 tickets. Todd Schmidt moved to approve the minutes and Roger K. seconded the motion and it was carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Sheryl Hoffman gave the treasurer's report as attached. Robin S. moved to approve the report and Roger K. seconded it and it carried.

**Committee Reports**

Karen Geske reported on the commercial booth at the State Fair for Patti Anderson. The total amount was \$27,719.25 and the taxes were \$1,189.04. The MLWPA will be receiving 20% of \$26,530.21, which is \$5,305.77.

Jeremy Geske gave an update on the website. He asked what we would like to charge the breeders to place an ad on the website. The group is recommending at we approve \$25.00 for one year at our next meeting, since we don't have quorum. The year will run October 31 – October 31. If anyone is interested in having an ad on the website they should e-mail it to Jeremy.

Jeremy Geske reported on the Annual Conference. Steven Read and Jeremy met for 5 hours last week to plan it. Jeremy will take care of getting the information out to the agriculture magazines. The group gave Jeremy ideas on who to contact for speakers. There will be a youth program again this year. If anyone has nominations for the Silver Bells Awards, get them to Jeremy. They will only be having one speaker at a time this year and the sessions are going to be shorter. They are going to have a producer panel and a wool industry panel this year. We may also have a fleece contest at the trade show.

Jeremy reported that we need to pay our dues of \$4200 to ASI. The group told Sheryl to go ahead and pay it. We will be receiving a 2% discount if they receive the check by October 31. The amount due is \$4116.

Sheryl checked into changing our checking account to Wells Fargo and it was going to cost us money. We decided to keep the account at Bremer Bank and if we need to change it when another treasurer starts, we will do it then.

### Other Business

Bob reported that the sheep program at Morris is going to be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that the newsletter will be going out in mid-October.

We decided to have another meeting before the conference. **We will meet on Saturday, November 2, 2002 at 10 a.m. The Glencoe Community Center is not available, so Julie will find a location for us to meet.**

Todd Schmidt moved to adjourn to meeting and Bob seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

## *Friends of the Minnesota Sheep Industry*

For only \$25, your local businesses, banks, cooperatives, feed stores and other businesses can help the sheep growing community in Minnesota. Friends of the Minnesota Sheep Industry will receive a certificate they can display showing their support of the sheep industry. In addition, they will receive the MLWPA Newsletter, and will be listed in the membership directory.



## Advertise your flock in the MLWPA Directory!

Five different locations will be up for auction at the MLWPA Conference and Trade Show:

Center Fold (or 4, ½ page adds)  
Inside Front Cover  
Inside Front Cover - Facing page  
Inside Back Cover  
Inside Back Cover - Facing Page

Prices for Advertisements in the Directory:

Whole Page - \$ 75.00  
Facing Pages - \$150.00  
One-Half Page - \$50.00  
One-Third Page - \$30.00  
One-Quarter Page - \$20.00

Send payment *and* camera ready art to:

***Sheryl Hoffman, MLWPA  
Treasurer  
22005 County Rd 7  
Hutchinson, MN 55350***

## Calendar of Events Year 2002

November  
5

Election Day

December  
6-7

MLWPA Conference & Trade Show  
Rochester, MN

2003

February  
6-9

ASI Annual Convention  
Washington, DC

### Future Newsletter Schedule:

Sept/Oct

Conference and Trade Show

Dec/Jan

Conference Highlights and  
Upcoming Legislative Issues

March/April

Spring Issue

July/August

State Fair Issue

*If you have a calendar item that you would like  
included, please send information to:*

*Bob Padula  
Rt. 5 Box 69*

*MLWPA Newsletter  
Rt. #5 Box 69  
Montevideo, MN 56265*