



Minnesota Lamb & Wool
Producers Association

Shepherds' Bulletin

Fall 2003

MLWPA Officers

President – Gene Holmquist (507) 853-4409
1st VP - Jeremy Geske (952) 758-7938
2nd VP - Foster Mooney (651) 257-5079
Treasurer - Jean Stark (320) 251-4237
Secretary - Julie Sievert (507) 834-6851

MLWPA Regional Directors

North East - Sherry Stirling (651) 257-0827
North West – Charles Stark (320) 251-4237
West Central – Mike Haubrich (320) 826-2526
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

South East Minnesota Sheep Producers

Todd Schmidt (507) 377-1045

Upper Midwest Dynamic Dorsets

Deric Sievert (507) 834-6851

West Central Sheep Producers

Judy Johnston (320) 589-1243

MLWPA Web Address:

www.mlwp.org

President's Scribblings - Gene Holmquist

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of MLWPA or have participated in a USDA lamb, wool or livestock compensation program in the past year. The reason for those payments and programs is simple – members of MLWPA and ASI lobbied to for those payments. They don't just happen because Congress thinks sheep producers need assistance.

I am continually amazed at how much we as an industry get in return for our contribution to the American Sheep Industry Association, our national organization. The ASI is there for us – lobbying and representing the interests of our industry. ASI is the oldest livestock commodity group in the US and is one of the most effective and respected agricultural lobbying groups in Washington, DC.

Through March 2003 Minnesota sheep producers received over \$3.3 million dollars in direct sheep related payments through the Lamb Meat Adjustment Program, Emergency Wool Payments and Livestock Compensation Payments.

Scrapie Program – we all benefit. Yes we have to comply with regulations – but without ASI helping us, can you imagine the regulations if left up to the bureaucrats? And how about the price for those tags? ASI has been able to increase funding for this program to eradicate scrapie – even with national budget reductions. You don't think it's important to you? Look north to the Canadian beef market to see what could happen to the US sheep industry if the media decided to link scrapie with BSE or "Mad Cow."

MLWPA pays dues to the ASI for every sheep producer in Minnesota based on USDA sheep production figures. If you are not a member, we are carrying the load for you. It's time you help yourself and the rest of us by becoming a member. Yearly membership dues are only \$35 a year – less than what you received for keeping back 2 ewe lambs the past two years. Think about it.

Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program LMAAP Year 4 Payments Resume

(Source American Sheep Industry Association)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced on Monday of this week that Year 4 payments of the Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program (LMAAP) would resume immediately.

Additional funds have been made available to fully support the final Year 4 LMAAP applications filed between June 7 and July 31, 2003. Payments on feeder, slaughter and ewe lambs will be made at the published rates of \$3, \$8 and \$18, respectively. The deadline for County FSA offices to complete the processing of Year 4 LMAAP applications is Nov. 7, 2003.

"This is good news for producers and feeders who submitted applications in June and July. Even though payments were delayed, producers can expect to receive full payment on all eligible applications," stated Guy Flora, president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI). "Producers should be receiving notice of payment shortly and should contact their local FSA office in coming weeks if they don't receive payment."

July 31, 2003, was the final application deadline for the LMAAP programs. *ASI is continuing work to extend the retained ewe-lamb program for an additional year and is awaiting a formal decision from USDA Secretary Veneman.*

Questions regarding payments should be directed to local FSA offices. The latest notice can be found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/public/notices/LD_542.pdf

MLWPA T-Shirts

New for 2003, the MLWPA will have available T-shirts embroidered with the MLWPA logo at the Annual Convention and Trade Show for \$12 each for members. The high quality red T-shirts will be embroidered with black lettering this year. Let the other sheep producers know you are a proud member of the organization.



Predators Can Be Destructive

COYOTE HUNTING ANYTIME OF THE YEAR

**FREE
Predator Control**

**Tom Wyzykowski
17441 Grove Ave
Lakeville, MN 55044**

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**Phone: 952-432-0034
Cell: 612-269-7266
Fax: 952-432-0035
Email: twyzykowski@aol.com**

If you are having trouble with coyotes or foxes — please call. I predator hunt for fun and would appreciate an opportunity to hunt and help you at the same time. You can also e-mail me and I will get in touch with you!

Plan to attend the MLWPA annual conference in Hutchinson

“Keeping Sheep Healthy” is the theme for the 2003 Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers (MLWP) annual conference and trade show. The program includes two days of quality educational sessions on sheep health and management topics; including hands-on sessions, youth workshops, and fiber classes; nationally known speakers, annual banquet, the MLWP annual business meeting, the Silver Bell luncheon honoring some top sheep producers, and a trade show with vendors of sheep-related equipment, supplies, and products.

The 2003 MLWP annual conference will be held November 21 and 22 at the Best Western Victorian Inn in Hutchinson and the McLeod County Fairgrounds. Registration fee information, a complete agenda, a description of speakers and topics, and information on hotel reservations is available in the newsletter and on the web at www.mlwp.org. To receive the lowest rates, reserve your hotel room by November 1, and register by November 14. If you have any questions about the conference, contact Jeremy Geske, MLWP 1st Vice-President at (952) 758-7938 or geskesheep@aol.com

Silver Bell Award Nominations needed

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.

The Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers are currently taking applications for the 2003 Junior and Senior Silver Bell Awards. Applications are due by October 15, 2003; awards will be presented at the Shepherd's Conference November 21 - 22, 2003. Winners will be honored at the Silver Bell Luncheon on Nov. 22. The 2002 winners will also give presentations 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 (952) 758-7938 or geskesheep@aol.com. Applications should be returned to Jeremy Geske, 1507 7th St NE, New Prague, MN 56071 by October 15, 2003. Application forms are also available on the website: www.mlwp.org.

Siremax Commercial Terminal Sires

Ten year records of weight gain, fat depth and eye muscle area.
These are not show sheep; these are sheep that excel in lean growth.

Look at www.siremax.com or call 507 925 4415, 507 453 9543

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

Your membership in the MLWPA pays your dues to the American Sheep Industry Association, the national organization. When you are a member of MLWPA – you are a producer member of ASI. The dues sent to ASI are used for legislative and lobbying activities. **There is NO check-off to support ASI activities– it’s all voluntary dues paid by members and state organizations.**

National Level Programs that benefit Minnesota producers include:

- An Additional FULLY FUNDED Year 4 of the Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program
- Inclusion of the Ewe Lamb Retention Program - \$18 per eligible ewe lamb for 2002 & 2003
- Lobbying for an additional year extension of the LMAAP - including Ewe Retention Program
- Continued funding for eradication of scrapie
- The Wool Trust Fund - \$15 million over 6 years to improve U.S. Wool in the international market
- Wool Marketing Loan Program included in the 2002 Farm Bill
- Seeking minor species status for sheep to improve availability of animal health products
- Funding for USDA Wildlife Services (MN receives over \$300,000 for this program)
- Support for Mandatory Price Reporting of Lamb (domestic and imported)
- Supporting Country of Origin Labeling for sheep
- Lobbying to stop foreign lamb from being allowed to be USDA graded and stamped
- Communications – ASI’s monthly Sheep Industry News & ASI Weekly (free members with internet)

Minnesota Producer Benefits and Projects of the MLWPA:

- Communications of Current News – quarterly newsletter and MLWPA web-site
- Producer Education – Annual Conference & Trade Show, U of M Extension service program
- Discounted Prices - Sydell & Formost Equipment Company, Livestock Concepts and “the sheep station”
- Membership Directory and free listing for direct marketers at the Minnesota State Fair
- Public Relations – Minnesota State Fair (Commercial & Baa Booths), Shepherd’s Harvest Wool Festival
- Youth Programs – 4-H State Fair Awards, MLWP Scholarships, Minnesota Ag Ambassador Institute
- Legislative Activity – monitoring & participation in legislation that affects Minnesota Sheep producers

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

Note – Membership fees are for one calendar year. To be included in the next membership directory – you must sign up no later than December 31 of the previous year. Membership fees increase to \$40 if paid after January 1. New members signing up at the state fair will become current members for the remainder of the calendar year and members for the following year.

2003 MINNESOTA LAMB & WOOL PRODUCERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 21 & 22, Best Western Victorian Inn, Hutchinson, MN

Friday, Nov. 21

8:30 a.m.	Registration begins	
9:00 a.m.	Trade Show Opens	
9:30 a.m.	Welcome	<i>Gene Holmquist, MLWP President</i>
9:45 – 10:30 a.m.	Session 1a.	Using Innovations in Your Sheep Operation - Drs. Jeff Held & Jay Daniel, SDSU A summation of innovative management tips from successful producers
	Session 1b.	Sheep Wasting Diseases – Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic A discussion on Caseous Lymphadenitis, Johne's, and Ovine Progressive Pneumonia
10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	Session 2a.	Ram Management - Drs. Held & Daniel, SDSU Health and nutrition considerations for rams
	Session 2b.	Ewe Flock Vaccination - Dr. Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic Developing a ewe flock vaccination program that works for you
	Session 2c.	Skirting Fleeces for Show – Sue Ross, producer Learn to prepare a fleece for show or sale - You may bring your own fleece
11:45 a.m.	Lunch	<u>On your own</u>
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.	Session 3a.	The Effects of Lung Lesions on Lamb Performance - Drs. Held & Daniel, SDSU An SDSU study on respiratory problems and lamb performance
	Session 3b.	Cooking with lamb – Local Lamb Chef Learn to prepare lamb from a professional chef (This has been confirmed!)
1:45 – 2:30 p.m.	Session 3c.	Fiber Preparation – Wendy Lankki, producer - material fee = \$5 Washing, carding, and combing a fleece - Try hand cards, a drum carder, and combs
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	Session 4a.	Lamb Check-off Update – Daniel Borschke, American Lamb Board An overview of the status of the lamb check-off program
	Session 4b.	Stress Management in the Sheep Operation – Roger Haugen, NDSU Techniques for reducing stress on sheep and shepherds
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Session 4c.	Spinning on a Drop Spindle – Marj Stewig, producer – material fee = \$5 (limit 10) If you want to learn to spin without investing in a wheel - Bring materials from 3c
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Session 5.	Producer Panel – Raising Sheep for a Specific Market – Foster Mooney, moderator The experiences of: Roger Karstens, Jim & Joy Hickman, and Daniel Borschke
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Session 6.	The Genetics of Scrapie Resistance – Jeremy Geske, producer Understanding the genetics of scrapie resistance, and using it to protect your flock
5:30 p.m.	Fleece Competition	– in the Trade Show Room- Bob Padula, American Wool Council
6:00 p.m.	Wine & Cheese Social	- in the Trade Show Room
6:30 p.m.	Banquet	– with comments from Senator Steve Dille
7:30 p.m.	MLWP Auction	– John Goelz

Saturday, Nov. 22

- 8:00 a.m.** **Registration begins & Trade Show Opens**
- 8:30 – 9:15 a.m.** **Session 7a.** **Forming a Wool Co-op** – *Bob Padula, ASI* and *Sherry Stirling, producer*
The possibilities of an MLWP wool co-op and potential for marketing wool mulch
- Youth Session 7b.** **Educating Urban People about Agriculture** – *Dave Resch, Regional Extension Director*
The importance of youth promoting sheep and agriculture to non-farm audiences
- 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.** **Session 7c.** **Spinning on a Spinning Wheel**– *Nancy Ellison, producer*
An introduction to a variety of spinning wheels. Bring materials or purchase here
- 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.** **Session 8a.** **NDSU Scrapie Research** – *Roger Haugen, NDSU*
Current findings of an on-going Scrapie research project at NDSU
- Youth Session 8b.** **Lamb Lead** – *Shirley Doering, Regional Extension Educator*
Improve your chances of being a lamb lead finalist at the state fair
- 10:30 a.m. – noon** **Session 8c.** **Felting** – *Sue Ross, producer* – **material fee = \$3** (limit 10)
Hands-on felting - Make a purse or potholder –
(You may bring your own carded, feltable wool)
- 10:30 – noon** **MLWP Annual Meeting** – *MLWP Board of Directors*
A discussion of MLWP state Fair activities – BAA Booth & Commercial Booth
Business Meeting
Election of Officers and Directors (*Please consider running for an office!!!*)
- 12:15 p.m.** **Silver Bell Luncheon** – presentations by *2002 winners*
Recognizing 2003 Silver Bell winners and other honorees
- 1:30 p.m.** **Final Drawings – trade show closes**
(Depart for fairgrounds for hands-on activities) (transportation on your own)
- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.** **Session 9a.** **Using Ultra-sound for Pregnancy Diagnosis** – *Dr. Susan McClanahan, U of M*
See how it is done, and learn how it could be used in your flock
- Session 9b.** **Drawing Blood** – *Dr. Paula Fricke, Animal Medical Center*
Learn to draw blood for DNA or disease testing
- Session 9c.** **Lamb Carcass Evaluation** – *Philip Berg, Regional Extension Educator*
Techniques for predicting carcass quality on live lambs
- Youth Session 9d.** **Sheep Judging Clinic** – *Dave Resch, Regional Extension Director*
Learn the important traits in market lambs and breeding sheep and how to prioritize
them.
- Youth Session 9e.** **Sheep Showmanship**– *K Bar K club lambs, producers*
A hands-on lesson to improve your showmanship skills
- Youth Session 9f.** **Sheep Skill-a-thon**– *Shirley Doering, Regional Extension Educator*
Prepare for the skill-a-thon section of the state fair 4-H sheep interviews
- 2:45 – 3:30 p.m.** **Sessions 9a through 9f repeated**
- 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.** **Sessions 9a through 9f repeated**
- 4:30 p.m.** **Farewell** – Home in time for chores

MAKE SURE YOU LET THE BOARD MEMBERS KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT THE 2004 ANNUAL MEETING!

Calendar of Events Year 2003 / 2004

November 4 Election Day

Nov 21-22 MLWPA Annual Conference and
Trade Show - Victorian Inn;
Hutchinson

December 5-6 Montana Wool Growers Association
Annual Meeting - Billings, MT

January 21-24 American Sheep Industry
Association
Annual Meeting in Sacramento, CA

MLWPA Annual Conference and Trade Show

2004 Mankato, MN

2005 Fergus Falls, MN

Future Newsletter Schedule:

Sept/Oct	Conference and Trade Show
Dec/Jan	Conference Highlights and Upcoming Legislative Issues
April	Spring Issue
July	State Fair Issue

*MLWPA Newsletter
1507 7th St NE
New Prague, MN 56071*