

Shepherd's Bulletin



Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association

Something for Everyone at the 2009 Shepherd's Holiday!

Sheep enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels are invited to the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers (MLWP) Shepherd's Holiday conference and trade show. Participants will be able to choose from a wide array of sessions related to sheep health, nutrition, reproduction and management, as well as fiber arts classes.

Friday's highlights include workshops on *Out of Season Breeding, Feeding and Managing Replacement*

Ewe Lambs, Biosecurity, Ask the Vet, Selecting Terminal Sires, Wool Dying, Basic Computer/e-mail skills and more.

The day concludes with the MLWP business meeting, followed by a reception with entertainment, lamb shank banquet, and fundraiser auction.

Saturday's program includes sessions on *Ewe*



MLWP conference includes hands-on workshops at Rafter P Ranch.

Lamb Selection, Scrapie, Felting and Wool Grading. Participants can bring a sample of wool to enter in the quality wool contest. The

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View From the Hayloft - Dan Persons, President

What a busy time of year! Breeding ewes, flushing ewe lambs, preparing for the October lambers, chopping silage, combining beans and corn and we still have some fence to make. At the same time it is very rewarding, as the last of the spring born lambs go to market.

I hope everyone is planning on attending the Shepherds Holiday Conference December 4th

and 5th in Alexandria. Your board of directors has put together a full schedule with something for everyone. I was told the other day by a producer that the cost of any conference is worth it if he takes home just one good idea or piece of information he can use. I cannot agree more, for that one good piece of information will be with us for our lifetime.

One of the new additions to the conference is the

opportunity for some on-farm sessions on the second day. The board has placed these sessions on Saturday afternoon so that those that wish to attend can do so and those that need to get home earlier can do that as well. There will be a short drive out to the ranch where the sessions will be held and you will be in cold facilities so need to bring appropriate clothing. You will be required to go through a foot

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Fall 2009

Conference Issue

MLWP Officers & Directors

- *President—Dan Persons*
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- *Treasurer—Glenette Sperry* 651-257-6735
- *Past Presidents -*
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- *WC Dir. - Mike Haubrich*
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- *Metro Dir. & Membership Chair - Patty Anderson*
952-447-4184

www.mlwp.org

President's Message - cont.

bath when arriving at the farm and clean barn clothes are appreciated to protect the health status of the flock you will be working with. There are several different sessions going on at the same time and you will be free to take in as many as you choose.

My family had a short vacation to New York in August where I was reminded that there are people as passionate about the great taste of our lamb as we are about producing it. While gazing through Macy's Department store and admiring a very nice 100% wool suite I met the clothing salesman, Abraham, with whom I visited for about 30 minutes about his love of lamb and his favorite ways to prepare it. He was truly enthusiastic about our product.

As we look to the years ahead in our industry I think we need to explore some of the issues that face the well being of us all. This past month ASI announced the formation of a task force charged with defining what it will take to expand the sheep flocks of the United States. This could



take many forms from introduction of more newcomers to the business to the expansion of those of us that already exist. They will look at what holds us to the production levels we have and what fundamental changes need to take place for those of us that would like to expand to be able to do so. As of this writing the members of the task force have not been released but are pending awaiting their acceptance of the nominations.

In closing I again want to thank all of you that had the passion to give your time and expertise to the operation of our State Fair commercial booth and the Baa Booth you help to put the face of lamb and wool producers into the minds of our consumers.

I hope to see all of you in December and until then keep your pencils sharp and your minds open.

MLWP Annual Conference - cont.

Silver Bell Luncheon (lamb gyros) will honor some outstanding producers. Participants are then invited to Rafter P Ranch for some on-farm, hands-on sessions on Feeding and Handling Systems, Ultra-sound for Pregnancy Diagnosis, Lamb Necropsy and more. Please dress appropriately.

Once again, the state Make it With Wool (MIWW) contest will be held in conjunction with the

conference on Saturday, Dec. 5. Contestants will compete for a chance to represent Minnesota at the National

"You're invited to tour Rafter P Ranch and participate in hands-on learning opportunities," Dan Persons, MLWPA President.

MIWW contest in Nashville in January. The MIWW fashion show

will take place after the Silver Bell Luncheon and awards program.

Join us in Alexandria, at the Holiday Inn, December 4-5. For hotel reservations, call 320-763-6577 (ask for the MLWP rate). For reduced registration and meal prices, register by Nov. 18. The complete agenda and registration form can be found at www.mlwp.org.

2009 Shepherd's Holiday - Conference Agenda

Friday December 4th

- 8:00am Registration Opens
Trade Show Opens
- 9:00 Opening General Session
- 9:15-10:15 Concurrent Workshops
 Session A: Scrapie Update and Ask the Vet
Dr. Larry Goelz
 Session B: Out of Season Breeding
Dr. Justin Luther
 Session C: Beginning Spinning -
speaker TBA
- 10:30-11:30 Concurrent Workshops
 Session A: Scrapie Update and Ask the Vet
Dr. Larry Goelz
 Session B: Economics of Raising Ewe Lambs
Phillip Berg
 Session C: Dying is easy
Karen Stormo
- 11:30-1:00 Trade Show and Lunch
(lunch – bag lunch by hotel)
- 1:00-2:00 Concurrent Workshops
 Session A: Selecting Terminal Sires
Dr. Justin Luther
 Session B: Replacement Ewe Lamb Mgmt
Phillip Berg
 Session C: Basic Computer/email tips
Sheilina Nohner
- 2:15-3:15 Concurrent Workshops
 Session A: Out of Season Breeding
Dr Justin Luther
 Session B: Biosecurity and Vaccinations
Dr. Larry Goelz
 Session C: Fleece uses for Different Breeds
speaker TBA
- 4:00-5:00 Annual Business Meeting of MLWPA
- 6:00 Reception – Music by Craig Torgeson
Trade Show Closes
- 6:30 Banquet – Music by Craig Torgeson
meal: Lamb Shank, Potato, Vegetable, Roll, Salad
Speakers: *Robert Benson – ASI Director Region III*
Kevin Paap – MN Farm Bureau President
- 8:00 Live Auction - *John Goelz*
Social time to follow

Saturday - December 5th

- 7:30 - 8:30am Make It With Wool Registration
- 8:00 Registration Opens
Trade Show Opens
- 8:30 - 8:45 Make it With Wool - orientation
- 8:45 - 10:15 MIWW (in garment) rehearsal
- 9:00-10:00 Concurrent Sessions
 Session A: Ewe Lamb Selection
Phillip Berg
 Session B: Scrapie Update and Ask the Vet
Dr. Larry Goelz
 Session C: Felting Creations
Mercedes Lee
- 10:15-11:15 Concurrent Sessions
 Session A: Industry Challenges
Phillip Berg and Dr. Larry Goelz
 Session B: Wool Grading – OFDA2000
Bob Padula
 Session C: MIWW workshop (with judges)
- 11:30 Silver Bell Luncheon (Gyro Buffet)
MIWW Style Show - *Glenette Sperry*
Closing Comments
Quality wool contest winner announced
- 1:30 Trade Show Closes
- 2:00 On-Farm Sessions at Rafter P Ranch (optional)
 - Farm Tour – *Rachel Volker*
 - Ultra Sound Pregnancy Testing – *Dr. Kathleen Head*
 - Ewe lamb Selection and Care – *Phillip Berg*
 - Death Loss Necropsy – *Dr. Head or Dr. Goelz*
 - Handling Facilities – *Kay Persons*
 - Feeding Systems – *Dan Persons*
 - Wool sorting and Shearing Preparation – *Bob Padula*
**Bring warm, clean barn clothes. (25 minute drive)*
- 2:30 MIWW - pick up & pay for silent auction items

***Quality Wool contest (with fabulous prizes)**

All participants are encouraged to bring a ziplock bag with a wool sample they would like to have tested using the OFDA2000. Prizes for the finest wool TBD. Free to enter. Wool samples must be entered by 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Sheep Management Education in the comfort of your own home

Continuing with providing various delivery methods of educational information, the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program launched online courses so sheep enthusiasts can keep current in the comfort of their own home or office.

The most popular course is the Introduction to Sheep Management course. This course is the online version of the successful home study course that provides an overview of year long sheep management. The course also studies the philosophy of sheep management and its relationship to business goals. Introduction to Sheep Management course is a 14 lesson self paced course with continuous enrollment. This is a one credit course that has no text book required. The 14 lesson topics include:

- 1) Getting Started in the Sheep Business
- 2) Your Ewes, Your Rams and Their Health
- 3) Breeding Strategies
- 4) Lamb Feeding

- 5) Facilities and Equipment
- 6) Ewe Flock Economics
- 7) Wool
- 8) Pre-Lambing Management
- 9) Lambing Time Management, Difficult Births, Baby Lamb Health
- 10) Orphan or Bonus Lambs, Grafting
- 11) Creeps and Creep Feeding
- 12) Weaning and Weaning Methods
- 13) Fitting and Showing Sheep
- 14) Raising Versus Buying Replacement Ewes

Other online course offerings include:

- Equipment and Facilities (LWMP 1202)
- Introduction to Sheep Health (LWMP 1300)
- Ewe Ration Formulation (LWMP 1502)
- Wool Characteristics and Properties (LWMP 1701)

We are currently taking registration for these courses.

Online sheep management courses are an excellent opportunity for youth and adults to learn more about sheep production within their own home or community. These five courses are offered each fall beginning the first part of October.

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program is a sheep management education/consulting program offered by Minnesota West Community and Technical College located at Pipestone, Minnesota. The purpose of the program is to help sheep producers increase income and profit through the production of quality lamb and wool. To maximize the profit per ewe and realize the full potential of all sheep through use of modern management practices, new technologies and new approaches to marketing of both lamb and wool.

For more information visit the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program web page at www.pipestonesheep.com or contact Philip Berg at 507- 825-6799 or philip.berg@mnwest.edu.

Time Writer Admits To Pursuing His Own Angle

Bryan Walsh, who wrote a damning article on modern agriculture in Time magazine, admitted in an AgriTalk interview Monday morning that the story took the angle he wanted to pursue rather than presenting both sides in a balanced, objective manner.

He said it's been a trend at Time to have "more stories angled toward the

point of view of the writer.

"Rather than just doing the sort of story where you do 50 percent on one side, 50 percent on the other, you allow the writer to look at it and make his own judgments," Walsh said.

He said he looked at the information and thought, "This is the angle I'd like to take."

His article wasn't just critical of big, corporate farms, but rather a system that includes many family farms as well. In the radio interview, Walsh said he understands the concern that many family farms could have about his story.

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Legislative Update

HSUS, Other s Target CAFOs

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and eight other extremist animal rights and environmental groups filed a legal petition with the Environmental Protection Agency seeking to regulate air pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

The petitioners joining HSUS are the Association of Irrigated Residents; Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment; Clean Air Task Force; Dairy Education Alliance; El Comité para el Bienestar de Earlimart; Environmental Integrity Project; Friends of the Earth; and Waterkeeper Alliance.

The 69-page petition claims CAFOs emit two greenhouse gases—methane and nitrous oxide—that hurt human health and welfare. The petition also targets hydrogen sulfide and ammonia emissions from CAFOs. The groups claim these emissions cause adverse effects on climate and the environment in the United States.

The petition explains how reducing emissions of major pollutants from CAFOs will improve human health, reduce suffering of farm animals, protect habitat for wildlife, and reduce the effects of climate change and other environmental problems.

Lincoln Vocally Opposes House Passed Climate Bill

U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-AK) spoke out in strong opposition to the climate change bill narrowly passed by the House in June. In an address to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Washington, Lincoln said the "deeply-flawed" cap-and-trade bill faces a very tough fight in the upper chamber.

"It's a deeply-flawed bill and I'm not going to support it," Lincoln said, generating a round of applause from the cattlemen. "As chairman of the Agriculture Committee, I have a great opportunity to weigh in on this issue."

Lincoln said the House bill fails to clean up the environment, create jobs or reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Plus, the bill puts a disproportionate share of the economic burden on family businesses in states like Arkansas and a disproportionate share of the burden on rural America.

In a related note, according to a just-released analysis by the U.S. Treasury Department, cap-and-trade provisions of climate change legislation up for consideration by the Senate are likely to cost American households \$1,761 per year. As a whole, U.S. citizens will pay up to \$200 billion annually, which is equivalent to a 15 percent hike in personal income taxes.

Farm groups opposed the climate change bill narrowly passed by the House in June. As written, the bill would impose enormous costs on agriculture and other sectors of the economy. The cap-and-trade program would take effect whether or not competing nations (i.e. India and China) adopt similar programs. It also fails to provide alternative energy programs, such as nuclear, to hold down energy costs. Farm Bureau contends the measure appears to have little or no impact on the climate.

LRP-Lamb Sales Resume

Lamb producers and feeders will be glad to hear that the Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb (LRP-Lamb) insurance will again be available for sale on Monday, Sept. 14. LRP-Lamb



is designed to insure against unexpected declines in the market prices of slaughter lambs.

"Preliminary rates should be available for review on Friday," stated Glen Fisher, president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI). "I think the availability of LRP-Lamb insurance comes at a time when the industry will really be able to benefit from this product."

ASI has updated the LRP-Lamb Education Course, which is available at www.sheepusa.org. This course is designed as a tool for producers and agents to learn more about the product and to offer scenarios to assist with the decision to purchase the insurance.

USDA Makes Final 2009 Lamb Purchase

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on Thursday announced that it will purchase 288,000 pounds of lamb at a cost of approximately \$1,017,000. These products will be distributed in federal food and nutrition programs.

"With this announcement, AMS has purchased \$1.97 million of the \$2 million committed to the sheep industry for this fiscal year," commented Glen Fisher (Texas), ASI president. "We are pleased that the agency was able to obligate nearly all of the funds before the Sept. 30, 2009, deadline to help strengthen lamb prices at the farm/ranch gate."

2009 Make it With Wool Contest

The 2009 Minnesota Make It with Wool contest is fast approaching. The contest will be held: Saturday, December 5, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, 5657 Highway 29, Alexandria, MN. The Make it With Wool contest highlights and beauty and versatility of wool. Contestants from all over the state participate. The day starts out with individual judging and finishes with a style show at the producers luncheon. The contest will coincide with the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Annual Conference.

New this year, Minnesota is having a Quilt, Afghan and Novelty

Contest. All rules and entry forms are on the web site. This is a Minnesota only contest and there is no advancing with this contest.

Check out the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers web site (www.mlwp.org) for more information on these contests. All the rules including information about what can be entered are on the web.

Also you can email me any questions at gtsperry@frontiernet.net, or call Glenette Sperry at 651-257-6735. Mail entries to : Glenette Sperry, 31460 Quinlan Ave, Center City, MN 55012

Entry deadline is November 6, 2009. The contests are open to all ages. Winners will advance to the ASI MIWW contest in Nashville, TN in January. Hope to see your entry in the mail. Happy sewing!!

LUNCH: The MN Lamb and Wool Producers will provide lunch free of charge for the contestants. Friends and family can purchase lunch tickets for \$10.00 per person. Please call Glenette at 651-257-6735 by Nov. 26 to Pre-register for the lunch. The ticket can be paid for at registration. Otherwise the cost at the door is \$13.00.

MLWPA Membership Renewal form - THANK YOU!

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____

Street: _____ County: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Breed(s) raised: _____

*optional - youth (21 & under) interested in the Jr program: _____

1 yr family membership \$35 3yr family membership \$100 Youth only membership \$10/person (21 & under)

Friend of the Industry (no sheep) \$25 Associate/Allied membership (businesses) \$100

Payment Method:

Check (payable to MLWP)

Charge my VISA or MASTER CARD (circle which one)

Card number: _____

3 digit code: _____ Expiration date: _____

Billing address (if different from above): _____

Your dues have expired!

Please detach the completed form, and mail it (along with your payment to:

Glenette Sperry, 31460 Quinlan Ave., Center City, MN 55012

Shepherd's Holiday - Registration form

DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2009
ALEXANDRIA, MN - HOLIDAY INN

Name(s) _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone# _____ E-mail _____

Costs: Early Bird Specials (before Nov 18th) After Nov 18th or at the door

MLWP/MIWW Conference Registration / Luncheon (Friday) Included in price of registration.

(For educational sessions, annual meeting & trade show)

MEMBERS: _____ x \$10/person = _____ x \$15/person = _____

NON-MEMBERS: _____ x \$20/person = _____ x \$25/person = _____

If you not a member, join with your registration to receive the reduced rate.

Please list names:

Friday bag lunch FREE WITH YOUR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION = FREE

Please list names:

Banquet/Auction (Friday) _____ x \$15/person = _____ x \$20/person = _____

Please list names:

Luncheon (Saturday) _____ x \$12/person = _____ x \$15/person = _____

Please list names:

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Completed registration forms and checks (payable to MLWP) should be sent to Glenette Sperry, 31460 Quinlan Ave, Center City, MN 55012 before **November 18th, 2009** to receive the early bird special price.

You can also pay with Visa or Mastercard (please circle which) credit card by providing the following information:

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature of cardholder: _____ 3 digit code on back: _____

Hotel accommodations: Holiday Inn, 5637 Highway 29 South, Alexandria, MN, 56308.

The MLWP rate is \$75.95 + tax. Call 320-763-6577 to make your reservations. Ask for the block for Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers to receive the above rate. Please call by **November 4** to guarantee that rate!

Calendar of Events

2009

Oct. 9-10	Nebraska Sheep & Goat convention	Wahoo, NE
Oct. 31	North Star Bred Ewe Sale	Pipestone, MN
Nov. 6	Entry Deadline - Make it With Wool Contest	
Nov. 7-20	NAILE (Louisville)	Louisville, KY
Nov. 12-15	Great Lakes Dairy Sheep Symposium	Albany, NY
Nov. 19-21	MN Farm Bureau Annual mtg	Brooklyn Park, MN
Nov. 20-21	ND Lamb & Wool annual mtg	Mandan, ND
Nov. 28	MN Bred Ewe & Doe Sale	Rochester, MN
Nov. 30	Application Deadline for Livestock Investment Grant program	
Dec. 4-5	MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday Holiday Inn	Alexandria, MN
Dec. 5	Make it With Wool Contest	Alexandria, MN

2010

Jan. 20-23 ASI Annual Convention Nashville, TN

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

Jeremy Geske
407 Horizon Dr. SE
New Prague, MN 56071
jgeske@fbmn.org

We're on the Web!

mlwp.org

Time article - cont.

"I understand that. I'm sorry it's been taken that way, because in no way would I want it to be anti-farmer or anti-food. In fact, the whole point of the article is, 'let's pay more attention to our food system (and) give more help to family farms,'" he said.

The article quotes numerous entities critical of modern farming, such as the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, several disenfranchised farmers dismayed about how agriculture has changed, organic advocates and others who sell their farm and food products based on criticizing the products and processes of mainstream farming and ranching.

Quote of the Day

"Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing."

- Redd Foxx

Serve on the MLWP Board of Directors

Are you interested in taking a leadership role with your organization? The Board meets 4-5 times per year at a central location .

The nominating committee (Jeremy Geske, Steve Scheffert and Bret Oelke) is seeking persons interested in

running for the positions of Secretary and Director for the NE region; as well as others interested in any of the regional director or officer positions.

Contact Jeremy (jgeske@fbmn.org) if you have questions or would like to run for the board.