

Shepherd's Bulletin



Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association

Pipestone Honors Outstanding Producers

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program recently honored two sheep farms who have achieved outstanding production, performance and profit from their sheep enterprise.

The first recipients of the Outstanding Producer Award are Lila and Dale Schmidt, owners of Grandview Polypay from Marshall. The Schmidt's have raised registered Polypay sheep for over 20 years and have been members of the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program for that entire time. Over that time, they have established one of the nation's elite performance Polypay flocks through using NSIP EPD's and on-farm data. They have intensely selected for maternal traits that benefit



L to R: Phil Berg, Dale & Lila Schmidt, Mike Caskey

their customers. They pay close attention to what their commercial ram customers want and adjust their breeding program to meet these needs. As a leading supplier of maternal line rams, their genetics can be found in about one-third of all commercial ewes in the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program.

In addition, Dale and

Lila have served tirelessly in representing and promoting the sheep industry and Polypay breed as directors and officers of state and national associations. Lila has also served on the Lamb and Wool Program Advisory Committee for many years and they have hosted on-farm sessions for members of the program.

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President's Message - Don Adelman

With the start of a damp, slow harvest season the last few days have been very nice. Everyone have a safe, productive fall.

I would like to thank those for their dedication and hard work at the state fair commercial booth and the Baa Booth. Great job!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Shepherd's Holiday, December 4th and 5th at Jackpot Junction in Morton MN. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us too.

Donations are appreciated for our fund raising auction. Items are also needed for our

silent auction that supports the Make it yourself with Wool competition.

If you have any nominations for the Silver Bell award please call me at 952-466-2451.

Thank you to all who participated in the member survey. We value your input.

Fall 2010

MLWP Officers & Directors

- *President—Don Adelman*
952-466-2451
- *1st VP—Kirk Roe*
507-526-5845,
kwroe@bevcomm.net
- *2nd VP—Steve Scheffert*
507-835-3951
- *Secretary—Becky Utecht*
320-679-4117
- *Treasurer—Glenette Sperry* 651-257-6735
- *Past Presidents -*
Dan Persons 320-986-2336
Jeremy Geske 952-758-7938
- *NE Dir. - Terri Drimel*
651-257-4871
- *NW Dir - Karen Stormo*
218-776-2223
- *SE Dir. - John Dvorak*
952-652-2402
- *SW Dir. - Mike Haubrich*
320-826-2526
- *WC Dir. - Randy Kinney*
320-554-6495
- *Metro Dir. Patty Anderson*
952-447-4184

www.mlwp.org

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— Mn Lamb Wool

Sheep Management from the Comfort of your own Home

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program offers online courses so sheep enthusiasts can keep current in the comfort of their own home.

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: Getting Started in the Sheep

Business; Your Ewes, Your Rams and Their Health ; Breeding Strategies; Lamb Feeding; Facilities and Equipment; Ewe Flock Economics; Wool; Pre-Lambing Management; Lambing Time Management, Difficult Births, Baby Lamb Health; Orphan or Bonus Lambs, Grafting; Creeps and Creep Feeding; Weaning and Weaning Methods; Fitting and Showing Sheep; Raising Versus Buying Replacement Ewes. This course is offered online or through the mail.

Other online course offerings include: Equipment and Facilities (LWMP 1202); Introduction to Sheep Health (LWMP 1300); Ewe Ration Formulation (LWMP 1502); and Wool

Characteristics and Properties (LWMP 1701)

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 courses are offered each fall beginning the end of September.

For more information visit the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program web page www.pipestonesheep.com or contact one of the Lamb and Wool instructors, Philip Berg, (507) 825-6799, philip.berg@mnwest.edu, or Mike Caskey, (507) 825-6808, mike.caskey@mnwest.edu, . To register contact Sue Lovell at (507) 847-7929.

Pipestone Lamb and Wool Hall of Fame - cont.

The next recipients of the Outstanding Producer Award are Gail and Gary Boeve from Woodstock. Gail and Gary have raised sheep for 12 years and have been members of the Pipestone Lamb and Wool

“MLWPA congratulates the Schmidts and the Boeves,” Don Adelman, President

Program since they began. Their flock has grown from twenty-five ewes to about four hundred Finn Cross and Polypay ewes. They are a perfect example of coming into the sheep business with almost no knowledge about raising sheep and achieving great success by applying modern management practices. They are one of an elite group of producers who consistently markets at or above

a two hundred percent lamb crop. The flock was started with highly productive ewes. They keep and use extensive production records in breeding and selecting to develop superior replacement ewes. They also select all rams used in their flock based on performance data. The Boeves are at the very elite end of producers in keeping lamb death loss from birth to market at two percent or less. They also get their lambs from birth to a market weight of 130 lbs faster than anyone selling most of their lambs at four to five months of age and they do it with good conversions of 2.5 pound of feed to put on a pound of gain.

In addition, Gail and Gary have generously hosted countless on-farm sessions, bus tours, sheep for profit



L to R: Phil Berg, Gail & Gary Boeve, Mike Caskey

school tours, National Sheep Industry Leadership School tours, state association tours and individual producer visits to their farm. Well over 1,500 producers have visited their operation in the last six years. They are also innovators and built the first "state of the art" lambing barn. Gail has also organized the group purchase of milk replacer for several years.

Dr. Held inducted in Pipestone Sheep Hall of Fame

Each year, the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program induct a person into the Pipestone Sheep Hall of Fame. The person inducted is selected based on outstanding accomplishments in sheep production by a member of the Lamb and Wool Program and/or in recognition of valuable contribution of time and service to the Lamb and Wool Program by a person from education, research or allied industries.

This year's inductee is Dr. Jeff Held from South Dakota State University at Brookings, South Dakota. Dr. Held has been the key "go to" person for research information on sheep management issues and new technology for the sheep industry. He has also been a key part of the research team that has conducted research on, barn cough in lambs; feeding soybean hull pellets and dry distiller grains to

sheep; efficient lean lamb production; and helped evaluate data from the "Meat Sire Project" put together by Iowa Lamb Corporation and a small group of seedstock producers.

Jeff also serves on the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Advisory Committee. He has been a valuable advisor on the development of distance delivered courses, workshops and short courses offered by the Lamb and Wool Program. He has generously given of his time to work with members of the Lamb and Wool Program through speaking at program meetings, short courses and through one-on-one work with producers in the Pipestone program.

Because of his influence as a trusted advisor to the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program, his practical



L to R: Phil Berg, Dr. Jeff Held, Mike Caskey

advice, willingness to share his knowledge with others, plus his commitment to the success of the Lamb and Wool Program and the sheep industry in this region, make him a very deserving inductee into the Pipestone Sheep Hall of Fame.

Goat and Sheep FAMACHA Training Planned

A FAMACHA training will be held at UW-River Falls on October 23, 2010 from 9 am to 12 noon. The FAMACHA system provides a tool for producers to identify anemic animals in their herd or flock. Anemia is the primary effect of infection by *Haemonchus contortus*, or the barber pole worm, the most common intestinal parasite in sheep and goats. By using this scoring system, producers may identify the most heavily infected animals, and treat only those requiring dewormer, thus reducing dewormer use and potentially slowing the development of resistance to dewormers.

To use this system, producers evaluate the color of mucus membrane

surrounding the eye, matching the color with a scale of 1 (mucous membranes are red) to 5 (mucous membranes are white). This training will educate producers on the use and limitations of the FAMACHA system and discuss proper deworming techniques. In addition, producers will receive hands-on training in utilizing the scoring technique on live animals and scoring cards will be available for purchase.

The training will be provided by Brenda Postels, an Agricultural Extension Educator in Buffalo, MN. The event will be held at Mann Valley Farm, located northwest of the UW River Falls campus. From downtown River Falls, take Main Street north,

turn left on County MM, and turn right on Glover Road. Turn right into Mann Valley Farm and meet at the Dairy Learning Center. Registration fee is \$5 and FAMACHA score cards may be purchased for \$15. Preregistration is required. Please contact Claire Mikolayunas to register: mikolayunas@wisc.edu or 608-890-3802.

Directory Correction

Two errors occurred in the breed listing for **Dave Kulas** on p. 23 of the membership directory. Katahdin should be changed to **Karakul**, and **Gotland** should be added. For more information, visit their website at: www.RoundHouseFarm.com

MLWPA Fall 2010 Board Meeting Minutes - *Becky Utecht*

A regular meeting of the MN Lamb & Wool Producers was called to order on Saturday, September 18, 2010, by President Don Adelman.

In attendance: Glenette Sperry, Don Adelman, Jeremy Geske, Becky Utecht, Randy Kinney, John Dvorak and Patty Anderson

Youth Committee:

Dan Persons read the Youth report submitted by Mercedes Lee.

Group Leaf:

Greg Leaf and son presented the results of the email survey conducted in late August-early September. The survey was sent to 168 members and had 36 responses. The Board discussed the meaning of the responses and prioritized options for a new branding/identity of the MLWPA. The Board will have a Web-X seminar on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 8:00 p.m. to review Group Leaf's proposal for re-branding the organization (new logo, color scheme, font selection, etc.).

The Minutes of the June 18, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. The balance in the checking and savings as of 9/17/10 was \$87,682.68.

Membership/Directory/Newsletter:

The next newsletter will include registration form for the Shepherd's Holiday conference, it should come out mid-to-late October. Deadline for submission of articles to Jeremy for this issue is Oct. 6th.

ASI/ALB:

Bob Benson, Regional Director of ASI will be at the conference in December. Dan Lippert, American Lamb Board representative will be invited too.

Old Business:

Shepherd's Holiday Conference – Discussed the schedule for weekend: Saturday, Dec. 4, 8:00 a.m. registration begins; 9:00 Welcome announcements; 9:15 break out sessions begin; 4:00 p.m. Make it with Wool; 6:30 Banquet, 8:00 Auction; Sunday, Dec. 5: Annual Meeting and Silver Bell luncheon as well as some breakout sessions. Jeremy has been in contact with the Cattlemen's Association regarding Trent Loos as a possible keynote speaker. Several suggestions were made for break out session topics and speakers. Steve Scheffert is working this also. Karen Stormo is in charge of the Fiber arts sessions. The Youth Committee will select their own breakout session topics/speakers. Options for conference ticket pricing were discussed. Jeremy and Glenette will set the final ticket price after reviewing all of the event costs, etc. Thank you to the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council for generous sponsorship of the annual banquet and silver bell luncheon.

Baa Booth - Kirk Roe reported that the Roe family will step down from running the Baa Booth. He said they have enjoyed it, but logistics and school schedules make it impossible to continue. The Board thanked him

for the excellent job he and his family have done with the Baa Booth.

Minnesota State Fair Commercial Booth – Patty Anderson reported gross retail sales in the State Fair commercial booth this year were \$46,850.63. MLWP did very well despite lower sales overall. She noted the need to replenish several products that were sold out. MSP for Patty to purchase additional inventory. Patty hired help in booth due to too few workers this year. Discussed increasing the commission fee for vendors who don't work in the booth. Patty and Glenette were interviewed at the booth during the fair for a PBS broadcast which will air on Channel 2 on Nov. 18, 2010.

Shearing Contest – Doug Rathke will host a blade shearing contest at his home on Nov. 6th. Dan Persons will judge and MLWP will provide insurance coverage as a sponsor.

Silver Bell Award: Don Adelman will contact Chuck Christenson to make sure he will be at the annual conference.

Shepherd's Harvest – A preliminary draft of a Memorandum of Understanding for a possible merger of the MLWP with the Shepherd's Harvest Planning Committee was distributed. Citing possible financial and tax issues, the Board decided to table a formal alliance with the Shepherd's Harvest Planning committee at this time.

Next meeting date set for Friday, December 3, 2010 at Jackpot Junction in Morton, MN at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

GREAT LAKES DAIRY SHEEP SYMPOSIUM - EAU CLAIRE, WI

The dairy sheep industry and sheep milk products continue gain recognition in Wisconsin and across North America. Both pure sheep milk and mixed milk cheeses are winning national competitions, including many unique Wisconsin creations.

The annual Great Lakes Dairy Sheep Symposium (GLDSS) is an important venue for potential and current producers and processors to gain a better understanding of the industry and to improve their operations. The 16th GLDSS returns to Wisconsin and will be held November 11-13, 2010 at the Eau Claire Ramada Inn and Convention Center. This event will include practical information for producers and sheep milk processors and tours of an operating dairy sheep farm and farmstead cheesemaker.

The featured international speaker is Ivan Larcher, a former instructor at the Centre Fromager in Carmejeane, France, a program for artisan cheesemakers. Mr. Larcher has provided technical advice to

cheesemakers in North America, Israel, Slovenia, Croatia, Spain, Morocco, Algiers and the United Kingdom. Additional speakers include Dr. Robin Rastani of Milk Specialties Global Research, who will speak about selecting lamb milk replacer and lamb rearing. Dr. Pamela Ruegg of UW-Madison will address mastitis in dairy sheep. Dr. Bob Wendorff, professor emeritus of food science at UW-Madison and Bob Wills of Cedar Grove Cheese, will speak on the art and science of making sheep milk cheese. Dan Scruton from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture will address antibiotic testing in sheep milk. Mateo Kehler, an artisan cheesemaker and affineur from the Cellars at Jasper Hill (Vermont) will address cheese aging techniques. In addition, current dairy sheep producers will discuss beginning sheep dairying, lamb rearing techniques, and farm management decision-making. Additional topics will include milk recording, genetic improvement, and sire referencing programs.

Saturday farm tours will include a visit to the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, the only dairy sheep research facility in North America. In addition, the tour will visit Shepherd's Ridge Farm, a farmstead sheep dairy operation in St. Croix Falls, managed by Jeff and Vicky Simpkins.

The 16th GLDSS is sponsored by the Dairy Sheep Association of North America, with support from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Spooner Agricultural Research Station, and the Dairy Business Innovation Center. Major financial support is provided by the Babcock Institute of International Dairy Research and Development of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and industry sponsors.

A complete symposium brochure, sponsor information, and on-line registration can be found at <http://www.dsana.org>, through the UW-CALS Conference Services, or by contacting Claire Mikolayunas at mikolayunas@wisc.edu (phone: 608-890-3802).

NDSU Hosting Reproductive Management Workshop

North Dakota State University's (NDSU) Animal Sciences Department is hosting a small-ruminant reproductive management workshop on campus Nov. 10-12. This workshop is for veterinarians who treat small ruminants and veterinary students.

"Compared with other livestock industries, sheep producers have a hard time finding veterinary practices that have much experience with small

ruminants," says Reid Redden, NDSU extension service sheep specialist. "This workshop will allow veterinarians to gain additional knowledge and hands-on experience needed to provide the latest in sheep reproductive techniques to their clientele."

Topics that will be covered include reproduction in sheep, methods of estrous synchronization and super ovulation, semen collection,

evaluation and preservation, development of teaser rams, laparoscopic artificial insemination, embryo collection and transfer and ultrasonography.

The application deadline to attend the workshop is Oct. 1. For more information, contact Redden at (701) 231-5597 or reid.redden@ndsu.edu or visit www.ag.ndsu.edu/reproductiveworkshopforsmallruminants.

New Baa Booth Coordinator(s) needed

A few years ago, when the BAA booth needed an overhaul, Kirk and Jill Roe (and family) stepped forward and offered to take charge. The Roe family has put in a lot of work, and the BAA booth has been revitalized.

Countless new ideas have engaged fair-goers in activities at the BAA booth, helping the organization reach out to potential consumers of lamb and wool. The board of directors and members thank the Roe family for their dedication.

Unfortunately for MLWPA, a change in location and school schedule

means that the Roe family will no longer be able to continue their efforts as coordinators of the BAA booth. The MLWPA board of directors is once again asking for someone with a passion for promoting the sheep industry to take over as BAA booth coordinators.

Kirk, Jill and family will gladly share what they learned, and help the new coordinator get off and running. If you think you might be interested in this opportunity, please contact the Roes with any questions/concerns you might have. (Kirk's phone and e-mail

are listed on page 1.)

The board of directors are very supportive of BAA booth activities, and budget significant funds towards it. The board does not micro-manage the BAA booth either, and we welcome new ideas that would build on the efforts demonstrated by the Roe family.

Interested members should contact President Don Adelman (and/or any board member) for more information. The BAA booth runs the first 8 days of the Minnesota State Fair.

Small Meat Processors Endangered by new Regulatory Costs

Small and independent meat processors are at significant economic risk due to increased regulatory costs included in a preliminary draft guidance document issued by the Food Safety and Inspection Service, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. That document spells out new and costly requirements for local meat processors under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems Validation proposal.

In a letter to the FSIS, Farm Bureau stated that many of its members who raise livestock, "rely on small and independent meat processors" to process meat they raise for their own consumption. In addition, local meat processors offer farmers and ranchers "opportunities to create specialty and value-added products

marketed through niche outlets."

"(Local meat processing) facilities are most at risk from increased costs due to (new validation costs for) multiple species and multiple products, with a relatively low volume over which to spread those costs," AFBF's letter stated. "The loss of small and very small establishments would be devastating to our livestock-producing members."

AFBF also said it has received "literally hundreds of concerns" from small, independent meat processors over the last three months pointing out the damaging economic consequences of the proposed rule. Increased compliance costs ranged from \$65,000 to approximately \$640,000 per year for those local plants.

"It is critical that we maintain vital processing capacity in rural areas,"

AFBF's letter stated.

The organization strongly urged FSIS to ensure that the new validation process accommodates concerns about exorbitant new expenses. In many cases, flexibility in addressing the regulatory requirements and costs "may make the difference between a plant remaining in operation or being forced out of business," the letter cautioned.

"We encourage FSIS to continue HACCP education efforts, particularly in the areas of validation and verification," AFBF stated. "Working with the industry to promote a greater understanding of all HACCP components may well prove to be more effective to overall food safety than new testing and microbiological requirements."

The Animal Activists' Agenda - *reprinted from the Voice of Agriculture*

What do livestock farming, medical research and hunting have in common? They are all targets of animal activist extremists groups that would like to put an end to the use of animals for food, clothing, research and entertainment. To understand the challenge we are facing, it is important to understand what motivates the animal activists movement.

HSUS

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is a radical animal activist group that inaccurately portrays itself as a mainstream animal care organization. The words "humane society" may appear on its letterhead, but HSUS is not affiliated with your local animal shelter. HSUS raises enough money to finance animal shelters in every single state, with money to spare, yet it doesn't operate a single one anywhere.

Instead, HSUS spends millions on programs that seek to economically cripple meat and dairy producers; eliminate the use of animals in biomedical research labs; phase out pet breeding, zoos and circus animal acts; and demonize hunters as crazed lunatics.

HSUS president Wayne Pacelle described some of his goals in 2004 for *The Washington Post*: "We will see the end of wild animals in circus acts ... [and we're] phasing out animals used in research. Hunting? I think you will see a steady decline in numbers."

While he was the national director of the Fund for Animals, Pacelle told the *Associated Press*: "If we could shut down all sport hunting in a moment, we would. Just like we would shut

down all dog fighting, all cock fighting or all bull fighting."

In a June 2005 interview, Pacelle told *Satya* magazine that HSUS is working on "a guide to vegetarian eating, to really make the case for it." A strict vegan himself, Pacelle added: "Reducing meat consumption can be a tremendous benefit to animals."

HSUS's current goals have little to do with animal shelters. The group has taken aim at the traditional morning meal of bacon and eggs with a tasteless "Breakfast of Cruelty" campaign. Its newspaper op-eds demand that consumers "help make this a more humane world by reducing our consumption of meat and egg products."

Since its inception, HSUS has tried to limit the choices of American consumers, opposing dog breeding, conventional livestock and poultry farming, rodeos, circuses, horse racing, marine aquariums and fur trapping.

Other quotes from HSUS leaders: "My goal is the abolition of all animal agriculture," HSUS grassroots coordinator John "J.P." Goodwin. "The life of an ant and that of my child should be granted equal consideration," HSUS senior scholar Michael W. Fox.

PETA

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has been described as "by far the most successful radical organization in America." The key word is radical.

PETA seeks "total animal liberation," according to its president and co-founder, Ingrid Newkirk. That

means no meat or dairy, of course; but it also means no aquariums, no circuses, no hunting or fishing, no fur or leather and no medical research using animals. PETA is even opposed to the use of seeing-eye dogs.

PETA's leadership has compared animal farmers to serial killer (and cannibal) Jeffrey Dahmer. They proclaimed in a 2003 exhibit that chickens are as valuable as Jewish Holocaust victims. They announced with a 2001 billboard that a shark attack on a little boy was "revenge" against humans who had it coming anyway. They have branded parents who feed their kids meat and milk "child abusers."

Other quotes from Newkirk include: "Eating meat is primitive, barbaric, and arrogant." "I openly hope that if [hoof-and-mouth disease] comes here. It will bring economic harm only for those who profit from giving people heart attacks and giving animals a concentration camp-like existence. It would be good for animals, good for human health and good for the environment." "There's no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They're all animals."

PCRM

A group misleadingly named the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) has duped the press into believing that it is an association of conscientious doctors promoting good nutrition. In fact, it is a PETA front group. PCRM and PETA share money, offices and staff.

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Legislative Update

Mandatory Price Reporting

On September 15 the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Mandatory Price Reporting Act (S. 3656) by voice vote. The bill was signed into law on Monday.

The legislation extends the mandatory price reporting (MPR) program for five years, establishes an electronic price reporting system for dairy products and includes additional reporting requirements for pork wholesale cuts and exports.

"The transparent, timely and accurate market information provided by mandatory price reporting programs is a vital and necessary tool for agriculture producers," Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) said.

ASI, MLWPA and Farm Bureau strongly supports the MPR reauthorization legislation.

Veterinary Services Investment Act

The U.S. House of Representatives approves the Veterinary Services Investment Act. The Veterinary Services Investment Act would establish a competitive grant program at USDA to support efforts to increase access to veterinary care in underserved areas.

"Rural areas are facing a critical and growing shortage of large animal veterinarians. These veterinarians are the first lines of defense against animal disease and a crucial player in ensuring the safety of our food. This bill will encourage veterinarians to serve these areas where their skills are needed," Chairman Peterson said.

The Veterinary Services Investment Act now moves to the

Senate for consideration.

Estate Tax

The U.S. House adjourned Wednesday to return home to campaign for the November election without voting on the estate tax, capital gains taxes and expiring tax cuts, which are priorities for Farm Bureau. The tax provisions will increase next year unless Congress takes action. Votes on tax cuts will now be taken up in a lame duck session set to begin November 15.

Before adjourning, the U.S. House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government at current levels through December 3. Passage of the pending appropriations bills or another CR will be needed when Congress returns from recess. The CR was necessary to prevent a federal government shut down on October 1, the start of the new fiscal year (FY). None of the twelve FY 2011 appropriation bills have been approved by Congress.

NSIIC

The interim final rule published on July 23 to establish the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) became effective this week.

"The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is pleased that this first step has been accomplished and that the center is now effective," commented Glen Fisher (Texas), ASI president. "We are seeking to have a board appointed and the program operational by the end of the year."

The center was established in the 2008 Farm Bill with \$1 million provided up front, as well as authorization for appropriations in the amount of \$10 million for each of the



fiscal years 2008 through 2012. The legislation established a NSIIC revolving fund in the U.S. Department of the Treasury for making grants to eligible entities.

The purpose of the sheep center is to strengthen and enhance production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States through infrastructure development, business development, production, resource development and market and environmental research.

The ASI executive board this week submitted a slate of 14 nominations for the seven voting director slots. The board will be appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and will be composed of four active producers of sheep, two finance and management members and one member with lamb or wool marketing expertise.

Berry Amendment

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Berry Amendment Extension Act (H.R. 3116), which would bring the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the purview of the Berry Amendment and its requirement that covered products, including textiles and apparel, contain 100 percent U.S. inputs. The bill now must be taken up and passed by the Senate in order to become law.

The Berry Amendment dates back to 1941 and requires that the

Legislative Update - cont

Department of Defense purchase certain products -- such as garments and other textiles, specialty steel and food -- that are deemed essential to military preparedness from domestic sources.

The Berry Amendment Extension Act would apply only to the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard. Because the U.S. government is bound by the World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), which bars provisions such as the Berry Amendment unless the United States exercises an option to exempt agencies that it deems critical to national security, as it has done in the case of these two agencies. However, the act would provide the option for the Obama administration to exempt other DHS agencies from the GPA as well. Included among those other agencies are Customs and Border Protection, the Secret Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Immigration and Citizenship Enforcement.

De-listing Wolves

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that four petitions to remove Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin contain substantial information indicating that delisting may be warranted. The Service will begin an in-depth review of the species status in order to determine whether to propose gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region for delisting.

Today's decision, known as a 90-day finding, is based on scientific information about the species

available in Service files and provided in the petitions requesting delisting of the species under the ESA. The petition finding does not mean that the Service has decided it is appropriate to remove federal protection under the ESA for gray wolves in these states. Rather, this finding triggers a more thorough review of all the biological information available.

To ensure this status review is comprehensive, the Service is soliciting information from state and federal natural resource agencies and all interested parties regarding the gray wolf in the western Great Lakes region. Based on the status review, the Service will decide whether delisting is warranted.

The public may submit comments regarding the Services status review of the gray wolf by one of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov> . In the box that reads Enter Keyword or ID, enter the Docket number for this finding, [FWS-R3-ES-2010-0062]. Check the box that reads Open for Comment/Submission, and then click the Search button. You should then see an icon that reads Submit a Comment. Please ensure that you have found the correct rulemaking before submitting your comment. U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: [FWS-insert docket number]; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203. Comments must be received by November 15, 2010.

[Ed. note - If your sheep farm is impacted by wolves, please submit comments.]

Bovine TB

Effective today, the majority of Minnesota has been upgraded to bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Accredited-Free, and a small area in northwest Minnesota changed to Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA).

Producers raising cattle in the Management Zone will continue the same testing, movement, and fencing requirements. However, this upgrade brings reductions in testing and movement requirements for the rest of the new MAA Zone. Farmers in this area that raise cattle or bison will see the following changes go into effect today: No TB test required for feeder cattle leaving the herd (official ID still required); and an Animal Movement Certificate is not required for within-herd movement.

Those herds located in the TB-Free area have no federal TB testing requirements; however, some states may have import requirements. Producers should continue to verify import requirements with the receiving state prior to shipping animals out of state.

More information can be obtained by logging on to the State's bovine TB website at www.mntbfree.com or by calling the bovine TB Hotline at 877-MN TB FREE (668-2373).

Form 1099 requirements

Provisions in the new health care law that require farms, ranches and other businesses to complete an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1099 for any expenditure totaling more than \$600 in a calendar year create an unnecessary and costly paperwork burden. Bills in the House and Senate to repeal have this far not been successful.

Investing in the future of agriculture

Editorial - Bev Durgan, Dean, University of Minnesota Extension

Farming is a long-term business where decisions made today affect outcomes tomorrow. Farmers plant a crop in the spring and wait until fall to see how the crop turns out. They build a new livestock facility and wait years for the investment to pay back. They select the genetics of a dairy herd and wait three, four or five years to see the results in the bulk tank. Cutting corners on essentials today often means lower returns and less productivity tomorrow.

It is much the same story for agriculture research. An agricultural research project that begins today often takes time before the results are ready to share. Scientists wait for results of laboratory studies, field trials and other analysis to discover the best solution to a problem. In both agricultural research and farming, it takes patience to wait until investments made today make a difference in years to come.

Our society has invested less in agricultural research over recent decades and there are signs that scrimping on agricultural research investments in more recent decades is costing us today. Data from University of Minnesota Agricultural Economist Phil Pardey shows the rate of growth in U.S. agricultural productivity is slowing as investments designed to spur agricultural productivity decline. His research shows that in the 1950s, US farm productivity was increasing by about

2% a year. In recent years, the rate of increase has slowed to slightly more than 1% a year. Pardey says one reason for this is a slowdown in the rate of growth of public spending on agricultural research and productivity. Fewer people working to discover new ideas means fewer new ideas to apply in the field.

The decline in the number of researchers at land grant institutions working to discover solutions to agricultural productivity challenges continues today. State and federal investments in agricultural research have fallen for the last ten years and probably will fall even more in the future. The most recent session of the Minnesota Legislature cut funds for University of Minnesota agricultural research and extension by 12%. This is a larger reduction than the rest of higher education and reduces dedicated funds for agricultural research and extension to levels last seen in the early 1990s. Fortunately, the University of Minnesota provided funding to cushion the impact of these cuts on agricultural research and extension.

The funding challenges at the University of Minnesota are not unique. Land grant schools in some other states are struggling with even deeper cuts to agricultural research and extension funding than we have in Minnesota. Families, businesses, schools, counties and others also have

to find new ways to do what needs to get done. We are all in this together and will learn how to deal with the challenges from each other.

Our response to the budget challenges at the University of Minnesota will be driven by our commitment to providing the research and Extension that Minnesota agriculture needs. The reductions in agricultural research funding do not change our commitment, but they will make the job of providing research-based solutions to agricultural problems tougher.

The strength of Minnesota agriculture is the ray of hope as we deal with budget challenges. The history of Minnesota agriculture is filled with stories of farmers and university experts working together to deal with plant pests, eliminate animal diseases, develop improved production practices and respond to economic challenges. That history will repeat itself as we respond to the current challenge.

Working with our partners will provide solutions. Minnesota is fortunate to have agricultural leaders who are innovative thinkers and will be strong partners as we work together to assure Minnesota agriculture has the research-based information it needs. We look forward to working together to provide research-based information that will make a difference in Minnesota.

MLWPA thanks the Minnesota Corn Growers Association for Sponsoring the Annual Banquet; the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council for sponsoring the Silver Bell Luncheon, and AgStar Financial Services for sponsoring the keynote speaker at the Shepherd's Holiday!

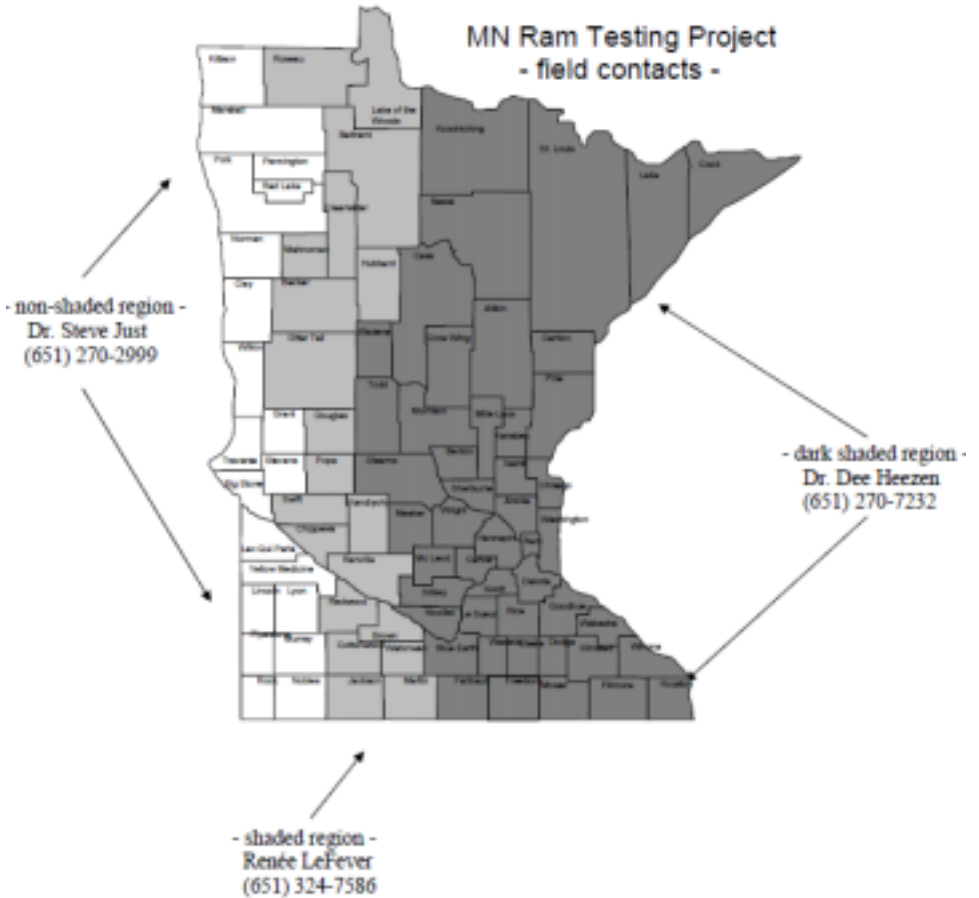
Scrapie Genotyping Funds Available

Minnesota recently received funding to, once again, assist sheep producers with testing rams for genetic susceptibility to scrapie.

Funds cover the cost of sample collection by USDA personnel, shipping costs, and laboratory testing for Codon 171. Producers have the option to test 10 rams between August 15, 2010 and September 30, 2010 and an additional 10 rams between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011.

Testing will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis until funds are exhausted. The results are for management purposes only; no regulatory action will be taken. Owners are responsible for animal restraint and making sure all sheep have official scrapie identification ear tags in place on the day of testing.

To schedule an appointment or get more information call the field person in your area (refer to map).



Do you want more legislative & regulatory news more often?

The legislative and regulatory information in the MLWP newsletter contains excerpts from the MN Farm Bureau state and national legislative updates. To get the complete information on a weekly basis - join your county Farm Bureau and become part of the most influential grassroots ag advocacy organization in the country.

- **Weekly electronic state/national legislative & regulatory updates**
- **Participate in Day on the Hill events in St. Paul**
- **Attend Farmers to DC trips**
- **Engage in local government issues affecting agriculture**
- **Participate in grass-roots efforts to shape and implement agricultural policy**
- **Be an advocate for agriculture**

Minnesota Farm Bureau legislative updates are provided as an added benefit of membership. If you are a current Farm Bureau member, thank you! If you are not a member consider joining today. Find out more about Farm Bureau and the many benefits of membership at www.fbm.org/Member Benefits



www.fbm.org

651-768-2100

info@fbmn.org

Join Today!

Minnesota Farm Bureau®

GREAT GRILLING

Get Grilling With American Lamb Simple Marinades and Succulent Lamb Team Up For Summertime Flavor



(NAPS)—With grilling season upon us, American Lamb makes an easy and elegant meal for warm weather feasts using few ingredients and quick techniques. Grilling is the quintessential summer pastime and an ideal low-fat cooking method for lean proteins like lamb. American Lamb is rich in protein, iron, B vitamins, and zinc and on average has less than 175 calories per 3-ounce portion.

Firing up the grill is fun for outdoor entertaining and fast enough for a casual weekday meal. From chops to burgers to kebabs, any cut of American Lamb is the secret weapon for great grilling!

Brighten Up the Barbeque Using the Magic of Marinades and Lean Lamb

Mint Raspberry American Lamb Chops:

Combine $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of olive oil, 2 tablespoons raspberry vinegar, 1 tablespoon of chopped fresh mint and 1 minced garlic clove. Place four loin chops (1 inch thick) in marinade and refrigerate for at least one hour. Grill for 9-10 minutes for sweet and tangy lamb chops.

Soy Ginger American Lamb Burgers:

Create Asian-inspired burgers by combining $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon juice, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup soy sauce, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey, 1 teaspoon grated ginger and 1 minced garlic clove and add to 1 pound of ground American Lamb. Form mixture into four $\frac{1}{2}$ inch



Lamb makes an easy and elegant meal using few ingredients and quick techniques.

thick patties and grill 5 minutes for rare; 7 minutes for medium-rare; 9 minutes for medium; and 11 minutes for medium-well.

Yogurt Curry American Lamb Kebabs:

For kicked-up kebabs, mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plain yogurt, 2 teaspoons curry powder, 1 minced garlic clove, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons lemon pepper in a non-reactive bowl. Cut $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of boneless leg into 1 inch cubes and place in yogurt mixture. Cover and refrigerate for 2-3 hours. Remove lamb from marinade and thread four cubes (alternating with vegetables) on eight pre-soaked wooden skewers. Grill the kebabs approximately 4 minutes per side, or to desired degree of doneness.

For more grilling recipes and information about American Lamb visit www.americanlamb.com.

Lamb Consumption

The United States produces approximately 200 million pounds of lamb annually. Lamb accounts for less than 1% of the average American's protein diet. US lamb consumption has grown slowly during the last decade leading to a relatively steady annual per capita consumption level of one pound per year. Lamb consumption in the United States is concentrated on the East and West coasts and in larger metropolitan areas. 30% of consumers in the US have never had lamb. Imported lamb accounts for roughly 50% of the lamb sold in the US market. Lamb demand trended downward between 1980 and 1996 and then stabilized before recovered about 7 percent through 2006.

Relative to other meat and poultry markets, the sheep industry has fared the global economic downturn well. Price levels across every stage of the industry held up well in a time when the worst was expected. Tighter supplies likely supported prices to some extent. Retail lamb sales grew 2% in 2009 and the average price per pound grew 1.5%

Food Ideas

American lamb is rich in protein, iron, B vitamins and zinc, and on average has less than 175 calories per 3-ounce portion. For grilling recipes and information, visit www.americanlamb.com.

2010 Make It With Wool Contest

You could be the next winner in the “Make It With Wool” Contest! A luxurious piece of Predelton Wool, sewing and yarn products or one of the many other prizes could be yours for participating in the 2010 contest.

To request a brochure and entry form, contact Glenette Sperry at 651-257-6735 or email at gtsperry@frontiernet.net. Registration deadline is November 6, 2010.

The State contest will be held December 4 in Morton, MN at the Jackpot Junction, 29275 Cty Hwy 24.

All those entering the competition must select, construct (sew, knit or crochet) and model the garments they enter. The material must be made of a minimum of 60% wool. Juniors (ages 13-16); seniors (ages 17-24) and adults (25+) may enter dresses, coats, suits or other garments. Pre-teens (ages 12 & under) may enter jumpers, skirts, pants, vests, dresses, jackets or shirts. Age is as of December 31, 2010.

The purpose of the “Make It With Wool” Contest is to focus attention on the beauty and versatility of wool, and encourage the use of wool fabric or yarn in sewing, knitting or crocheting fashionable garments by offering individuals the opportunity to compete for valuable prizes and gain recognition for their talents.

Junior and Senior winners of the

Contest are eligible to go on to the National “Make it With Wool” competition which will be held January 19-22, 2011 in Reno, NV.

Anyone wishing to help sponsor the event may also contact Glenette Sperry at 651-257-6735. Donations of any kind are welcome.

New for 2010: Quilt, Afghan and Novelty Contest. This division replaces the wearable accessories categories while adding a new dimension to the contest. (This category is a Minnesota only contest.)

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

- To promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns.
- To encourage personal creativity in sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving wool fabrics and yarns.
- To recognize creative skills.
- To develop life skills, including:
 - Being responsible for one's self
 - Being a good sport
 - Accepting judge's decisions
 - Learning about and appreciating diversity

Contact Glenette or go to www.mlwp.org for more information.

2009 MIWW winners



Traci Lafrentz, Katie Petersen, and Alyssa Nelson

Animal Activists' Agenda - *Cont. from p. 7*

The American Medical Association calls PCRM a “pseudo-physicians group,” has demanded that PCRM stop its “inappropriate and unethical tactics used to manipulate public opinion,” and argues that

PCRM has been “blatantly misleading Americans” and “concealing its true purpose as an animal ‘rights’ organization.”

Learn more about the animal activist groups and their agendas at the

following websites: animalscam.com, centerforconsumerfreedom.com, activistcash.com and humanewatch.org.

Bet on having a good time at the Shepherd's Holiday

Sheep enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels are invited to the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers (MLWP) Shepherd's Holiday annual conference and trade show. This year's conference will be co-located with the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association annual conference at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel in Morton, Dec. 4 and 5.

The conference and trade show opens at 8:00 a.m., Saturday morning. Participants will be able to choose from a variety of seminars related to health, nutrition, management, youth sheep projects, fiber arts, fencing, Make it

With Wool (MIWW) competition, and more. Amanda Nolz, contributing editor for BEEF magazine will deliver the keynote address focusing on advocating for agriculture. Amanda's appearance is sponsored by AgStar Financial Services. The MIWW fashion show highlights the wine and cheese social, followed by a Mediterranean lamb shank dinner sponsored by the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. The evening concludes with the annual fundraiser auction.

Sunday morning offers more seminars on youth sheep projects, fiber

arts, wool quality, nutrition and more. The annual business meeting will be followed by the Silver Bell Awards luncheon (lamb chops) sponsored by the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

Join us at Jackpot Junction for good times, good friends, and information to help us manage our sheep farms. For hotel reservations, call 800-946-2274 (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.

Integrated Worm Control in Lambs - *Don Cromis, USDA-ARS*

Deworming is an important management tool, but unnecessary deworming is costly and can speed the development of parasiticide resistance in the worms. Deworming of lambs can be minimized by the use of rotational grazing and by checking the animals' inner eyelid color for signs of anemia, according to Agricultural Research Service scientists and cooperators.

Animal scientist Joan Burke of ARS's Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center in Booneville, Arkansas, and colleagues collaborate with scientists, veterinarians, and extension agents from the Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control. The consortium was formed in response to the threat posed by worms that have developed resistance to parasiticides.

"Using alternatives to conventional parasiticides fits well into organic and

grass-fed management systems and meets consumer preferences of minimizing chemical residues in the meat," says Burke.

The researchers used a tool called "FAMACHA" to determine whether to deworm their study animals. They compared the lambs' eyelid color with FAMACHA photos of the eyelids of sheep at five levels of anemia. The stages range from the red eyelids of healthy livestock (Stage 1) to almost white eyelids of severely anemic livestock (Stage 5).

Some of the lambs grazed on bermudagrass in the same pasture all season, and some were rotated to a different pasture every 3.5 to 7 days. They returned to the initial pasture 28 to 35 days later and three times over the 105-day grazing season. The lambs that rotated pastures needed fewer dewormings.

"This is the first study of rotational

grazing that used lambs that had worms," Burke says. "This is the only way you can find out whether rotational grazing has any advantages over continuous grazing for organically managed animals."

Rotational grazing may prevent animals from concentrating worm larvae because they are not bedding down in the same area every night. Also, neither pasture was overgrazed, an important consideration in both minimizing reinfection of livestock and maintaining healthier pastures.

This research is part of Animal Health and Pasture, Forage, and Range Land Systems, two ARS national programs (www.nps.ars.usda.gov.) Joan M. Burke is with the USDA-ARS Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, Booneville, AR

[Ed note: the complete article can be found at: www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/jul10/lambs0710.htm]

Shepherd's Holiday - Dec 4/5 - Jackpot Junction MLWPA Annual Conference Registration Form

Name(s) _____
(Please print names of all attendees as you want them on your name tag)

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone# _____ E-mail _____

Shepherd's Holiday Conference Registration Fee ***Your conference registration fee INCLUDES:

- the cost of the Saturday box lunch,
- the Saturday evening Banquet (sponsored by the Minnesota Corn Growers Association) and
- the Sunday Silver Bell Luncheon (sponsored by the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council)
- educational sessions, annual meeting & trade show

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

MLWPA MEMBERS: _____ x \$30/person = _____ x \$50/person = _____

NON-MEMBERS: _____ x \$55/person = _____ x \$75/person = _____

If you're not a member, join with your registration to receive the reduced rate.
(Family membership is only \$40/yr) dues enclosed \$ _____

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, 2010 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: Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel, 39375 Co Hwy 24, Morton, MN, 56270.

The MLWP rate is \$66.00 + tax. Call 800-946-2274 ask for 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

2010		
Oct. 22-31	American Royal Livestock Show	Kansas City, MO
Oct. 23	FAMACHA training	River Falls, WI
Oct. 30	North Star Bred Ewe Sale	Pipestone, MN
Nov. 2	ELECTION DAY	
Nov. 5-6	Iowa Wool Gatherers' Retreat	Elkader, IA
Nov. 6	Blade shearing contest - contact Doug Rathke Hutchinson, MN	
Nov. 6-19	North American International Livestock Expo	Louisville, KY
Nov. 10-12	NDSU Reproduction Workshop	Fargo, ND
Nov. 11-13	Great Lakes Dairy Sheep Symposium	Eau Claire, WI
Nov. 13-15	ND Sheep Shearing School	Hettinger, ND
Nov. 18	Early Bird Reg. deadline - MLWP Shepherd's Holiday	
Nov. 18-20	MN Farm Bureau annual conference	Brooklyn Park, MN
Nov. 27	MN Bred Ewe & Boer Goat Sale	Rochester, MN
Dec. 4-5	MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday	Morton, MN
Dec. 8-10*	SDSU Shearing School (dates tentative)	Brookings, SD
Dec. 17-18	NDLWGA Annual Meeting	Bismarck, ND

2011		
Jan. 19-22	ASI annual convention	Reno, NV
Apr. 24-26	Shearing School - contact Doug Rathke	Hutchinson, MN

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

*Jeremy Geske
31307 171st Ave
New Prague, MN 56071 jgeske@fbmn.org*

We're on the Web!
mlwp.org



MLWP Congratulates Karen Aakre of Underwood, MN for winning the Grand prize in the Scenic category for ASI's photo contest with this shot titled "Maple Leaf Farm".

Minnesota farmers and ranchers are ensuring safe, affordable, locally grown food for Minnesota families.

Minnesota Farmers Care

• Animals • Environment • Food • Family

Care is a Priority.