



Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association

Shepherds' Bulletin

Spring/Summer 2006

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www.mlwp.org

President's Message – Jeremy Geske

In early May, I had the opportunity to represent Minnesota sheep producers at the American Sheep Industry spring trip to Washington D.C. While there, I was able to meet with several of our congressmen and lobby for a number of issues important to sheep producers. I was one of many producers from across the country who participated.

I shared with them the importance of reauthorizing mandatory price reporting (MRP). Since MRP expired last fall, lamb prices have dropped over 30 percent. This at a time when prices are generally higher and lamb supplies lower. Both the Senate and the House have passed bills to reauthorize MRP, but the bills differ, and in conference committee, they have not yet worked out a compromise.

We also discussed disaster assistance for agriculture, which includes money to extend the Ewe Lamb Retention program. The Senate has included this in their emergency spending bill, the House did not. However, Congressman Peterson and others have sent a letter to House leadership urging them to support including Ag disaster assistance in the bill. In the end, the ewe lamb retention program was not included.

We also had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Johans and other USDA staff on a variety of programs important to sheep producers. It was a great experience, and it was my privilege to represent the interests of Minnesota sheep producers at this event.

Will the Timber Wolf finally be removed from the Endangered Species List?

In March, the Interior Department proposed taking the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes region off the endangered and threatened species list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took comments until June 26.

The MLWPA board submitted comments on behalf of Minnesota sheep producers. Several members were asked to submit individual comments, and many did. MLWPA partnered with Farm Bureau and other organizations to encourage farmers across the state to send in comments.

The many reasons why the Timber Wolf should be de-listed include:

- De-listing of gray wolves in the Great Lakes region is long overdue. All of the requirements for de-listing in the approved Recovery Plan have been met. Federal recovery guidelines for the Gray Wolf population in MN were set at 1,250 to 1,400 animals. The population in MN has exceeded those guidelines since 1992. 2004 estimates for the Gray Wolf population in MN range from 2,300 – 3,700, about double the federal recovery guidelines.
- Gray Wolf populations in MN continue to grow at a significant rate.
- The purpose of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is to recover species that are in danger of becoming extinct. When a species has recovered, it no longer needs the protections of the Act and must be de-listed. If this recovery function is not observed, the ESA becomes nothing more than a cumulative list of species without regard to their status. Recovered species that are not de-listed take scarce resources from species that really need them.
- MN has an Approved State Management Plan (a requirement imposed by the Fish & Wildlife Service for de-listing) to assume responsibility for wolf management upon de-listing.
- Livestock depredation by wolves and other predators causes serious economic losses for MN farmers. According to USDA data, over 3,100 sheep were killed by predators in MN (a loss of over \$263,000) in 2004. Of those, 20-25% were attributed to “other predators” of which the wolf is the primary culprit. Wolves also cause significant depredation to cattle and other livestock.
- The designation of the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment is appropriate. The gray wolf population in MN, WI and MI is separate from any other wolf population in the United States. Wolves are unlikely to migrate into this area, and are also unlikely to migrate out of this area.
- Threats to the species that resulted in listing have been removed.



If you have any questions, contact Jeremy Geske at 651-905-2107 (w), 952-758-7938 (h), or geskesheep@aol.com.

Did you know?

**By being a member of MLWPA, you can get the ASI Weekly News by email for free?
Just contact ASI for information on getting your email account set up.**

info@sheepusa.org

NSIP Sale – A First for the U.S. Sheep Industry

By AMY TRINIDAD - Sheep Industry News Editor

The first sheep sale of its kind is happening July 8 in Spencer, IA, which involves only sheep from breeds with National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) expected progeny differences (EPDs).

The idea of the Center of the Nation NSIP Sale was developed by a couple of sheep producers who utilize EPDs in their flock. Jerry Sorensen of Harlan, Iowa, says, “Mike Park and I were brainstorming about how we can take EPDs in the sheep industry to the next level. EPDs are valuable in the dairy, beef and pork industries and we want to show producers that EPDs are here to stay in the sheep industry and are the best tool to make the initial selection of sheep.”

The purpose of this sale is to give commercial sheep producers a centrally located place to offer NSIP breeding stock. The primary breeds will be Suffolk, Polypay, Targhee, Dorset, Hampshire and Katahdin. In addition, a NSIP seminar will take place the morning of the sale which will provide a good opportunity for producers to learn how to utilize EPDs in their selection process.

Greg Deacon, from the Banner Sale Management Service, who is organizing the sale, says that they are receiving more entries than expected. “We expect 100 entries. There will be a nice assortment of rams and ewes, every one of them with EPDs,” explains Deacon, who says he has heard a great deal of enthusiasm for this sale by a big sector of the sheep industry.

The morning seminar will include Larry Kuehn, Ph.D., from the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb., Dan Morrical, Ph.D., from Iowa State University and Dennis DeWitt from the Iowa State University Extension Service. In addition, a breeder’s panel will conclude the seminar to discuss how each breed is utilizing EPDs from NSIP.

Kuehn will speak on behalf of the NSIP providing some background information, as well as the overall process of predicting EPDs. He will also provide insight into the methods used to calculate EPDs so that “it does not seem so much like a black box to producers.” “EPDs are the most powerful tool we have available for making genetic change in the seedstock sheep industry, especially when comparing the genetic potential of animals from different flocks,” says Kuehn, who hopes to show other seedstock producers the benefits of NSIP.

Morrical will show producers how to utilize EPDs for purchasing their breeding stock with NSIP data. “The main reason NSIP is the best solution to improved production is that the ovine species is a complex beast that has lots of important traits: wool, meat, milk, reproduction and growth,” explains Morrival. “Other livestock species have much narrower traits on which to base their selection needs but they use programs similar to NSIP much more than the sheep industry.”

DeWitt will present RAMSIMM, a computer program for producers to describe the needs of their flock and assists them in selecting the best-suited ram for their flock based upon their EPD data.

“This Center of the Nation NSIP Sale is setting a precedent for the U.S. sheep industry,” says James Morgan, Ph.D., president of NSIP. “It provides a unique and excellent opportunity for the commercial sheep community to purchase seedstock for both maternal and terminal sire lines in one location. Shows and sales with visual appraisal are common, but one with objective performance criteria setting sale order is unique.”

For more information on the Center of the Nation NSIP Sale contact The Banner at 309-785-5058, or Dennis DeWitt at 712-336-3488 or dewitt@iastate.edu.

Center of the Nation - NSIP Seminar and Sale 07/08/2006 9:45 AM - 4:00 PM
Clay County Fairgrounds, Hwy 71, west on 18th Street, Spencer, IA 51301

Topics include: NSIP update; utilizing EDP's for purchasing your rams and ewes; Selecting your breeding stock using RAMMSIMM; and a breeder panel discussing utilizing NSIP and marketing breeding stock. The day will conclude with a 1:30 pm sale of NSIP rams and ewes.

MLWPA receives RMA Grant

Last year, the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers joined together with 12 other commodity groups to apply for a USDA – Risk Management Agency education grant through the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group and the result was \$10,200 in grant funds for MLWP to provide educational programs throughout the state.

These RMA funds help to cover the costs of the 4H Youth Spring Workshop in Madison, the Small Flock Shepherding class at the Shepherd's Harvest at Lake Elmo and the production of 250 educational workbooks for small flock and beginning shepherds. Some of the funds are also being used to cover the cost of our quarterly newsletter.

Since the mid-1970's, the sheep and wool industries in the United States have seen significant changes marked by smaller flocks, declining lamb production, shrinking revenues from wool and lamb sales, and fewer sheep farm operations. Yet, there has been an increase in starting and having small farm flocks (under 50 ewes). The resources and information to support such operations, such as experienced mentors, trained veterinarians, extension agents, and retail markets have been very limited. With this grant, MLWP is doing something to make a difference by providing a simple easy-to-understand educational handbook and regional workshops. The next workshop will be at the winter conference in Pipestone.

Each workshop has provided attendees with a yearly calendar of sheep needs so that owners can successfully manage their sheep throughout the year. It is taught by instructors active in MLWP, the Minnesota Grown program, and direct farm to consumer marketing. The workshop is interactive, and the focus is on ways to make the venue profitable regardless of the size of the flock.

The educational handbook is only 46 pages long and divided into three parts – basic farm and sheep information, basic preventative medicine and first aid, the yearly calendar and lambing, and marketing ideas. Copies of the manual are available for just \$10 and that includes the postage. Send check payable to "MLWP" to Sherry Stirling, PO Box 839, Lindstrom, MN 55045



“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

MLBA Conducts Sheep Judges Clinic

The Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association held a sheep judges clinic on July 7 at the Jackson County fairgrounds. People interested in judging county fair sheep shows in Minnesota are encouraged to attend the clinic. The idea is to create more consistency among judges. Participants practiced judging breeding sheep, market lambs, fleeces, and lamb lead. Upon completing the training, participant names and contact information are put on a sheep judges list. MLBA makes the list available to County fair boards and Extension staff responsible for hiring sheep show judges. For more information, contact Gene Holmquist at 507-853-4409 or mod51@frontiernet.net.

This year, the event was held in conjunction with the National Columbia Show and Sale.



American Wool Council
 Division of American Sheep Industry Assn.
 9785 Maroon Circle
 Suite 360
 Centennial, Colorado 80112-1414



Why sheep don't shrink when it rains and Answers to other questions about wool

Robert F. Padula - Wool Quality Improvement Consultant

Why Sheep Don't Shrink

A frequently asked question to sheep producers is why sheep don't shrink when it rains. While humor is obviously intended, there does exist an underlying question that has a real answer.

The "shrinking" that people have in mind is what happens to a wool sweater mistakenly put into the washing machine and/or dryer – resulting in a sweater of much smaller size. The technical term for this is called felting. In order to understand the process, a little background information on the structure of the wool fiber is needed.

Wool is made up of amino acids, the building blocks of protein. The protein in wool is keratinized or "hardened" during its formation and growth on the sheep. Fingers nails and hair are forms of keratinized proteins. The wool fiber is surrounded by flat, overlapping scales. These scale edges always point away from the body of the sheep while it is growing on the animal.

However, when processed, the fibers are mixed in their orientation and the scale edges may point in opposite directions. When spun into yarn, the wool fibers come in close contact with each other. Additionally, the fibers come into contact with each other when woven or knit into fabric. Therefore, the orientation of the fiber and subsequently the direction the scale edges are random.

When wool fabrics are subjected to agitation and moisture – the fibers in the fabric will slide past each other. However, the edges on the scales come in contact with each other, and do not allow the wool fiber to slide back, "locking" the fiber into position. It is not just one or two fibers that are locking together, but literally hundreds of fibers that come in contact with each other and lock into this position – causing the garment to "shrink".

In contrast, the scale edges point in one direction while on the sheep, and can slide back and forth – therefore not felting or shrinking. The sheep also produces lanolin that covers the fiber, which acts as a "lubricant" and water repellent. This can also have a small affect to reduce felting of the wool while on the animal.

Washable and Easy Care Wool

Today, the wool textile industry has developed processes to create easy care, washable wool fabrics. There are two basic processes used to create washable wool. One is to coat the fiber to allow the fibers to slide past one another. The other treatment is to subject the wool fibers to compounds that smooth out the edges of the fiber scales. The result for both treatments is a smooth fiber and with no

prominent scale edges.

The United States Department of Agriculture and the American Wool Council are currently conducting research on the use of more environmentally friendly and less expensive methods to create washable wool.

But I can't wear wool – I'm allergic to it!

There are very few people that are allergic to wool. Wool is similar in chemical make-up to fingernails and hair. So if you are not allergic to your fingernails, you are probably not allergic to wool.

Research has demonstrated, that most fibers greater than 30 microns in diameter (a micron is 1/25,400th inches) are structurally rigid enough that when they come in contact with your skin, they do not bend – and cause a “poking” of the skin. The sensory receptors in your skin feel this poking and elicit a response. In some cases, this response is similar an allergic reaction on the skin where a redness or “rash” occurs. Some people have more sensitive skin than others, and react more. Most chemical fibers are made to be less than 30 micron in diameter, and therefore do not elicit this sensory reaction.

Wools garments designed to be worn next to the skin do not contain more than 5% of the wool fibers greater than 30 micron. The number of fiber ends exposed and touching the skin are low enough that the skin does not feel the poking sensation.

New technologies are being perfected that “tuck” the loose fiber ends into the yarn, so the end does not stick out and come in contact with the skin, therefore eliminating detection by the skin sensory receptors. Another new technology is to “stretch” the wool fiber, effectively thinning it out, making it less rigid – and having it bend when it comes into contact with the skin.

I'm not allergic to the wool - it's those chemicals and dyes

Another common misconception is that chemical compounds and dyes used to process wool cause an allergic reaction. While it is true that the wool industry uses chemicals during processing (for example mild detergents are used to clean the raw wool) – the unused portions are reclaimed after use. Wool fabrics are also washed and rinsed many times to remove any chemicals that would potentially remain. This is done before the wool leaves the textile mill. Textile worker safety and health issues are major concerns of the industry. The US government has strict rules and regulations regarding exposure to chemicals, which the mills must comply with. It would be nearly impossible for a fabric to leave a mill that contained any chemical residue that would cause harm to the next person handling the fabric – or the consumer purchasing a garment.

Also, with its unique chemical make up, the dyes used in wool are absorbed into the wool fiber itself, not simply onto the surface of the fiber. Once “inside”, the dyes are not easily removed. The phrase “Dyed in the wool” was used to reflect that one maintained their principles, like wool maintained its color. Therefore it is also unlikely that dyes from wool are being released by the wool fiber causing an allergy.

Wool garments will fade over time when exposed to sunlight. It is the dye deteriorating and losing it's color, not the wool fiber deteriorating.

Shearing is inhumane and causes the animal pain

The wool from sheep is an annually harvested fiber. The fiber is used in a number of ways from apparel to environmentally friendly products such as wool mats that absorb oil-spills. Wool is a continually growing fiber on the animal during its lifetime.

Domestic sheep with wool require annual harvesting called shearing. The wool fiber is a hardened protein, and does not contain any sensory structures. It is similar in chemical composition to human hair and fingernails. Therefore, the sheep does not “feel” anything when the wool is sheared, similar to when humans have their hair cut or a manicure.

Without shearing, the animal may potentially suffer due to excessive wool growth. Too much wool, or lack of shearing, may result in manure or feces accumulating on the wool and encouraging fly egg development. The resulting fly larvae can cause serious harm to the animal and eventually death through infection. Also, too much wool and the extra wool weight caused by lack of shearing can result in heat exhaustion or heat stroke during hot weather conditions.

Having said that, there is scientific evidence that shows sheep with 1 inch of wool are more comfortable during hot periods, compared to sheep with less wool, as the wool fiber dissipates heat from the animal’s body more rapidly. Therefore, most sheep producers time their annual shearing to correspond with seasonal climate changes. Shearing generally takes place in the spring when the temperature is warmer. This allows the sheep to have a full wool coat during the winter. And they have adequate wool growth to keep the animal cool and avoid sunburned sheep in the summer.

Sheep producers employ skilled tradesmen for the shearing of their sheep. To the untrained eye, it may look like the positions used during shearing are strenuous or hurt the animal; it is actually to the contrary. The positions used during shearing are actually very comfortable to the sheep. If the positions were not comfortable, the animal would struggle and fight to get away. Sheep shearers are very careful to make sure they maintain proper positioning of the feet and legs – for both the sheep and the shearer. Sheep shearers are schooled and trained in the proper techniques for animal handling, wool harvesting and animal care.

From a sheep production standpoint, it is in the sheep producer’s financial interest to keep the sheep in a healthy and “happy” condition. Sheep that are stressed produce less desirable fiber, resulting in a lower economic return for the wool. Wool production is extremely sensitive to changes in nutrition; anything that can cause a stress or undue anxiety will have a negative affect on wool production. For this reason, sheep producers make sure that production practices employed do not negatively impact the animal’s well being.

Lambs Wool and Virgin Wool

And finally, some words used in the wool trade for marketing of wool products may sound inhumane to the animal. For instance, boiled wool – refers to an additional processing step, where the wool fabric is boiled after the wool fabric has been woven; the animal is not “boiled” to obtain the wool. Lambs wool refers to the first harvesting of the fleece, which generally has a softer feel or touch to the fiber; the animal is not sacrificed to obtain this wool. Virgin wool refers to wool that has not been previously processed - it has nothing to do with the age of the animal at shearing or any lack of reproductive experiences of the sheep.

Plan to attend the Farm Bureau Summer Sheep Tour

All Sheep Producers are invited to attend the Farm Bureau Summer Sheep Tour, Saturday, July 15, 2006, from 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m., at the U of M Vet School—An. Sci / Vet Med Bldg. (A map can be viewed at: <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/AnSciVM/index.html>.) You do not have to be a member of Farm Bureau or MN Lamb & Wool to participate, but membership to either/both is encouraged.

Participants will receive small group demonstrations on various aspects of the U of M Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. Topics to be covered include: *Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP)*, *Johne's Disease*, *Aerobic Culture & Sensitivity*, *Scrapie Prion testing*, *Parasite Resistance*, *Drawing Blood*, and two *Necropsy* demonstrations. Each 1/2 hour session will include instruction from a Veterinarian. Learn more about the proper way to submit samples to the diagnostic lab.

A \$10 registration fee is due by July 7 (\$15 after July 7) [includes lunch]. Please send your check, payable to Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation to: Jeremy Geske, 3080 Eagandale Pl, Eagan, MN 55121. Call (651-905-2107) or e-mail (jgeske@fbmn.org) Jeremy if you have questions.

This program is sponsored by:

- Minnesota Farm Bureau Sheep Advisory Committee
- Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association
- U of M College of Veterinary Medicine



MLWPA Supports New Miracle of Birth Center

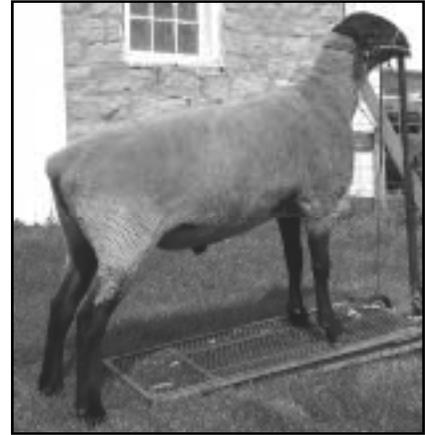
One of the biggest attractions at the Minnesota State Fair is the Miracle of Birth Center (see below). This building has been remodeled. MLWPA made a donation to this attraction. In return, a brick with our logo will be permanently on display in the barn.

Miracle of Birth Center

Fairgoers will have the opportunity to view live births of calves, piglets, and lambs as the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and Minnesota FFA host "Miracle of Birth Center" each year at the Minnesota State Fair. This building is open 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily, except Labor Day when it closes at 3:00 p.m.

MN State Suffolk Show & Sale

The Minnesota State Suffolk Show and Sale is scheduled for Saturday, July 23 at the Rice County Fairgrounds in Faribault. The show starts at 2 p.m., and the sale starts at 7 p.m. Approximately 30 head of rams and ewes from most of the top breeders in the state have been consigned. All sheep must be DNA tested NN (free from Spider Syndrome), and either RR or QR (Scrapie resistant) in order to sell. A sale catalogue will be posted at <http://www.countrylovin.com/sheepsales/index.htm>. To request a copy of the catalogue, if you have questions about the show and sale, or to place mail bids, contact Jeremy Geske (952-758-7938 or geskesheep@aol.com) or Rex Quam (507-251-2650 or rjquam@frontiernet.net).



2006 MLWP Annual Conference to be held in Pipestone

The 2006 MLWP annual conference and trade show is scheduled for December 1 and 2 at the Minnesota West Technical College in Pipestone. The educational sessions will primarily focus on Risk Management, and Sheep Health.

The conference will start at noon on Friday, with educational sessions all afternoon. The day's activities will conclude with the annual banquet and fund raising auction. Saturday's activities will include more educational sessions, the Silver Bell awards luncheon, the MLWP annual business meeting, and the Make It Yourself With Wool (MIYWW) contest. The trade show will be open both days.

The agenda has not been finalized, but tentative topic ideas include: When and how to submit samples to the diagnostic lab, Health benchmarks for your flock, Ask the Vet, What the packer wants (why your lambs get discounted), Minimizing production and marketing risks, Using ethanol by-products in sheep rations, Lambing time and late gestation health, Preparing for the day the shearer arrives, and Training your dog. Experts from SDSU, Iowa Lamb, and Minnesota have been invited to speak.

Participants in the MIYWW contest will compete for a chance to represent Minnesota at the national competition in San Antonio, TX next January. For more information about MIYWW, contact Glenette Sperry at 651-257-6735 or gtsperry@peoplepc.com.

More details and registration information for the annual conference will be distributed this fall. Watch the MLWP website (www.mlwp.org) for updated information. Questions can be directed to Jeremy Geske (952-758-7938 or geskesheep@aol.com) or any of the MLWPA board members.

www.mlwp.org

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

Lambassadors at Work

The MLWP Lambassador program trains young sheep producers to talk to consumer about lamb products. These young people participate in a variety of sheep seminars and do in-store demonstrations promoting lamb. For more information on the Lambassador program, contact Chuck Christians, MLWP youth programs volunteer, at 651-633-7598 or chris010@umn.edu.

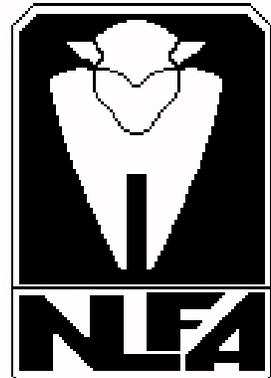


Lambassador Laura Drewry, and Dr. Chuck Christians doing an in-store demo

MLWP Leaders Chosen for Sheep Industry Leadership School

The National Lamb Feeders Association offers an annual Sheep Industry Leadership School (SILS). This year, the SILS will be July 9-12 in Greeley, CO. Enrollment is limited; however, two MLWP board members were chosen to participate. Dan Persons and Jeremy Geske will participate in this program designed to enhance the leadership skills of sheep producers. Persons and Geske will share what they learn at future MLWPA educational programs.

To learn more, go to <http://www.nlfa-sheep.org>



Woolch

What an amazing product and what a great marketing year for MLWP. Woolch is in the market place! We kicked off the year at the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in February in St. Cloud.

Steve Poppe from the West Central Research Station, University of Minnesota-Morris, gave a very informative talk about wool mulch and his tests on strawberry fields. We had a booth and were constantly answering questions about the product.

Then it was off to the Living Green Expo in May at the State Fairgrounds. It was our second year at the expo. We had repeat customers and sold most of this year's supply. We took the last of the Woolch to the Shepherd's Harvest and we are now sold out for this planting season.

Shipping the 5 ft x 80 ft rolls throughout the state and off to other state was a bit challenging. Deliveries were made to Twin Cities metro area, central MN area, and western Wisconsin. Pickup happened at MLWP Board member houses - thanks Doug, Patty, Jean, Chuck and others! Want to hear a great story, ask Warner Johnson about the day followed Marvin Window trucks around his neighborhood looking for driver Bob to get a couple of rolls to Warroad, MN.

We sent samples all over the US from San Rafael, CA to New York City. Watch for an upcoming article in "This Old House" magazine. The price is still up there for large scale commercial growers but homeowners wanting an effective non-chemical weed control product are willing to pay the price. Rolls retail for \$79.95 and smaller pieces such as tomato pads are only a buck. More Woolch will be available early next spring. Watch for an announcement in the winter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

We all know sheep producers who are not members of MLWPA. We have plenty of room to grow. Please encourage someone to join MLWP (**\$35/yr or \$100 for 3 years**).

MLWPA also has:

- **Youth members (\$10/yr)**
- **Associate members (\$100/yr)**
- **Friends of the Industry (\$25/yr)**

Patty Anderson, membership chair – 952-447-4184.

Don't forget about discounts for MLWPA members!



Sydell Equipment offers the following special deals to MLWP and its members:

- For all orders made by producer members, MLWP will receive a 3% donation of equipment net from Sydell to be used by the state association for projects which benefit the sheep industry. (*does not include any supplies*)
- Any order over \$100 will receive a 10% discount to the producer member.
- Any order over \$1,000 will receive a 15% discount to the producer member.

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Website www.sydell.com



(800) 225-7399 Ask us about MLWP discounts

Calendar of Events Year 2006

Year 2006

- July 7-8 Center of the Nation – All Breed NSIP
Sale Spencer, IA
- July 9-12 NLFA Howard Wyman Sheep Industry
Leadership School
Greeley, CO
- July 15 Farm Bureau Summer Sheep Tour
AnSci/VetMed bldg – U of M
St. Paul, MN
- July 21-22 US Targhee Sheep Association
Show & Sale
Brookings, SD
- July 22 MN State Suffolk Show & Sale
Faribault, MN
*To see a sale catalogue, go to
www.sheepsales.com*
- Aug. 24 – Sept. 4 MN State Fair
St. Paul, MN
- September 15 Newell Ram Sale
Newell, SD
- November 25 Rochester Bred Ewe Sale
Rochester, MN
- December 1-2 MLWPA Annual Conference
Pipestone, MN

Future Newsletter Schedule:

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

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

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