

# Shepherd's Bulletin

Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association



## Shepherd's Harvest Festival

Spring 2007

Don't miss the Shepherd's Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival set for Mother's Day Weekend at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo. The festival brings rural and urban people together to share information about sheep and sheep products and other fiber-producing animals.

The Festival started in order to provide a venue where wool producers, wool consumers and wool artisans could come together and share the excitement of working with sheep and their fantastic product - wool. Gradually, the Festival has grown to

include other fiber animals such as angora rabbits, alpacas, and goats.

The Festival strives to be a family oriented event that is not only fun but educational. Numerous classes are offered in the fiber arts -- geared for all levels of experience -- from the beginner to the expert. One of this year's featured classes will be taught by **Norman Kennedy**. Kennedy's family is from Aberdeen, Scotland. As a young man he was intrigued watching the old people spinning and weaving as a way of life in Aberdeen and in the Hebrides and Highland



Norman Kennedy

areas. They couldn't understand why a young person was interested in the old ways, but were willing to share what they knew. He soaked it all up

(cont. on p. 2)

## President's Message - Jeremy Geske

Spring is finally here and I'll soon have the rest of my lambs weaned and my ewes sent to pasture. Now it's time to start getting ready for the show and sale season.

It reminds me of how important it is for MLWP as an organization, as well as each of us as producers

to support youth sheep project activities. The 4-H and FFA sheep project exhibitors of today, are the producers of tomorrow. MLWP and its members are very involved in supporting the state fair youth sheep shows, and I know many of you play an integral role at your county fairs as well. This is a

great way to support our industry.

There are many other ways for you to support youth sheep-related activities. Volunteers are always needed to coach livestock judging teams (or host practices for teams),

(cont. on p. 2)

### MLWP Officers & Directors

- *President—Jeremy Geske*  
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geskesheep@aol.com
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- *2nd VP—Don Adelman*  
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320-237-3577
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- *WC Dir. - Mike Haubrich*  
320-826-2526
- *Metro Dir. & Membership*  
*Chair - Patty Anderson*  
952-447-4184
- *Satellite Reps are listed on*  
*the web site:*

**www.mlwp.org**

## President's Message - cont.

coach livestock knowledge bowl teams, promote the Lambassador program, help with Quality Assurance and Ethics training, and just being a mentor to young people interested in sheep.

Thank you to those of you who give so much of your time to support youth sheep activities. And for those of you who haven't been as involved as you could be, I would encourage you to make some time to help out.

Stop by your county fair 4-H sheep show and visit with some of the exhibitors. I think you'll find some outstanding young people who certainly are deserving of our support.

*MLWP offers a youth membership for only \$10. Contact Sheilina Sperry (320-237-3577) for more information on the MLWP youth membership program.*



## Shepherd's Harvest Sheep & Wool Festival —Cont.

along with their stories and ballads. After he moved to America, he became the master weaver at Colonial Williamsburg and later founded the Marshfield School of Weaving in Vermont. He now shares what he knows about the spinning tradition from the British Isles, as well as the skills and techniques that were common knowledge before industrialization.

Many vendors of fiber and fiber animal related products show their

wares at the Festival through a juried selection of vendors of unique products. If it's fiber related, you probably will find a vendor with just what you have been looking for.

**Learn more at:**  
[shepherdsharvestfestival.org](http://shepherdsharvestfestival.org)

To add to the fun of the Festival, there is live entertainment each day. Demonstrations are ongoing for sheep shearing, herding dogs, rabbit agility,

spinning and knitting. Activities are planned to spark the interest of youngsters.

Judging, showing and selling of fiber from sheep, angora rabbits and alpacas give you the opportunity to view some of the finest fleeces in the Upper Midwest and to compare your skills at selecting fleece with highly regarded fleece judges.

See you there!

(more info on p. 4)

## Comprehensive Sheep ID 'How to' Available

Finally, all in one place is a handy source of everything a sheep producer needs to learn about identification. It comes in the form of a PowerPoint presentation that covers everything from state and federal requirements for the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP), to record keeping, to proper placement of tags. It even covers the relationship between NSEP requirements and those for voluntary

participation in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

This tool has been prepared by sheep producer Dr. Cindy Wolf of the University of Minnesota, and her colleague Eileen Kuhlmann. "Its based on our practical experience plus a study we did as part of a cooperative agreement from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/ Veterinary Services (APHIS/VS) on

radio frequency devices (RFID) and supporting technology," explains Wolf.

Much of the same information is also available in a pocket-sized booklet that provides a handy table for keeping the ID records necessary for the NSEP. The pocket book does not cover the NAIS requirements.

Both versions have the following information: Tips for Tagging, Sheep

## Sheep ID - cont.—from *Sheep & Goat Health Report-Spring 07*

Required to be Tagged for NSEP, NSEP Approved Tag Manufacturers, How to Use These Records, Records for Scrapie ID, Lists of State Veterinarians and USDA/APHIS/VS Area Veterinarians-In-Charge, Suggested Tag Placement and other websites of interest.

“The presentation is something that everyone in the sheep industry should see and the pocket book will be helpful to many producers,” says Dr. Diane Sutton, the national coordinator of NSEP. “Veterinarians, youth leaders, extension agents, dealers, auction and market operators, and yes, APHIS personnel—anyone who is directly involved in the sheep industry can benefit from this easy to understand summary. Dr. Wolf and Ms. Kuhlmann have done a real service to the sheep industry.”



The PowerPoint presentation and the NSEP pocket book are available for viewing, downloading and ordering from any of the following websites:

[www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie](http://www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie)

[www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahps/scrapie](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahps/scrapie)

[www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org)

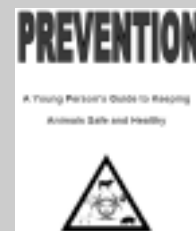
[www.aasrp.org](http://www.aasrp.org)

[www.sheepandgoatid.org](http://www.sheepandgoatid.org)

### Available Free Online:

## A Young Persons Guide to Keeping Animals Safe, Healthy

This booklet provides a short youth-oriented course concerning those basic medical principles essential to keeping animals safe and healthy -- farm isolation, traffic control, hygiene, and sanitation. Readers are shown how common or unusual diseases are reduced when animals are protected from direct or indirect contact with other animals (wild or domesticated), people, and equipment from other locations. Further, they are informed about the many reasons why an animal's environment and surroundings need to be hygienic and sanitary.



## Wolf Elected to NIAA Board—*from ASI 4/13/07*

Four industry leaders representing a diverse cross-section of animal agriculture were newly elected to the board of directors of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) at the association's annual meeting last week in Sacramento, CA. They were John Adams, National Milk Producers Federation; Robert Fourdraine, Ph.D., Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium; Perry Mobley, Alabama Farmers Federation; and Cindy Wolf, DVM, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and a sheep producer.

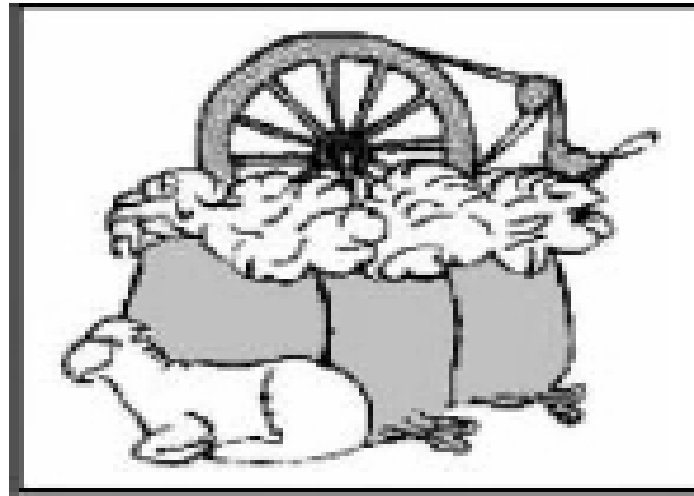
"We are very pleased that these outstanding leaders have agreed to join our board. We are certain that they will help us meet the challenges that face animal agriculture in the years ahead," said R. Scott Stuart board chairman.

Board members who were re-elected include Rafael Seneriz, DVM, Elanco Animal Health, and Annette Whiteford, DVM, California Department of Food and Agriculture. Retiring from the Board this year are Lawrence Heider, DVM, the Association of American Veterinarian Medical Colleges; Jon Johnson, Texas Farm Bureau; and Kevin Maher, GlobalVetLink, L.C.



Dr. Cindy Wolf

10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**SHEPHERD'S HARVEST**  
 Sheep and Wool Festival



**May 12 and 13, 2007**  
 (Mothers Day Weekend)

**Washington County Fairgrounds, Lake Elmo, MN**  
 9:00 to 5:00 Saturday 10:00 to 4:00 Sunday

**FREE Admission — FREE Parking**

- Shepherding a Small Flock Class
  - Ask the Vet
  - Lamb Lead Class
- Wool, Angora and Alpaca Fleece Competitions
  - Fiber Arts Classes
- Vendors of Exclusive Fibers and Supplies
  - Sheep Breeds Display
  - Photography Contest
  - Working Stockdogs
  - Entertainment

The Shepherd's Harvest Festival is an opportunity for rural and urban people to meet and share information about sheep, sheep products and other fiber-producing animals.

Also on the fairgrounds: Llama Magic

Visit our web site [www.shepherdsharvestfestival.org](http://www.shepherdsharvestfestival.org)

## USDA Launches Two Important Scrapie Studies - *Sheep & Goat Health Report, Spring '07*

A study on the prevalence of Scrapie in goats and another study to test a new live animal test procedure in sheep and goats are now being conducted by USDA/APHIS/VS in cooperation with state animal health authorities. The Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) and National Veterinary Services Laboratories are leading the efforts.

A Caprine Scrapie Prevalence study, designed to determine whether the prevalence of scrapie in adult slaughter goats is less than 0.1 percent, is currently underway. "While there have been a number of goats tested as part of the Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS), they primarily represent the goat population in Texas, and based on the origin of scrapie cases in sheep and goats, are unlikely to be positive," according to Katherine Marshall, DVM, MSc, who designed the study. It is expected to be a one year study.

"To date, we have tested 685 goats sampled at slaughter plants with 69

percent originating in Texas, and another 20 percent originating in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

None of the goats tested as part of the RSSS have been reported to be scrapie infected. However, because the goal of the new study is to confidently determine whether the prevalence of scrapie in adult goats being slaughtered is less than 0.1 percent, we will target populations of goats which should have a higher likelihood of being exposed to Scrapie. Up to 3000 samples will be collected from Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) inspected plants which have slaughtered adult goats during the previous year and which we believe come from the geographic areas where they may have been exposed to scrapie," states Dr. Marshall.

The third eyelid test for scrapie was the first live animal test which represented a significant breakthrough in diagnosing the disease. If performed properly, the test is reliable and accurate, but getting sufficient tissue to test can be challenging. A rectal biopsy

has shown promise in both accuracy and ease in obtaining sufficient tissue to sample.

According to Dr. Marshall, in November of 2006, the procedure began to evaluate the rectal-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) for use in live animal testing of flocks for scrapie. Samples are being collected from sheep exposed to scrapie which have been depopulated as part of the scrapie eradication program. The evaluation will include a comparison with test results on third eyelid biopsy and on multiple tissues following necropsy. It will also include the repeatability of rectal biopsies from the same individual, and a determination of the amount of tissue required for a valid test. Preliminary data analysis will begin after 100 positive animals have been sampled. Sampling may be extended to 200 positive animals to allow for a more precise definition of the sensitivity of the RAMALT immunohistochemistry relative to other tissues tested.

### **Vermont Faces 'Inconsistent' Status—*Sheep & Goat Health Report, Spring '07***

Regulatory action to remove Vermont from the NSEP's list of "consistent" states is now underway. Vermont has not enacted a change in ownership ID requirement as directed by federal regulation. Vermont sheep producers (and some goat producers) will not be able to move breeding or show stock across state lines unless they are participating in the Voluntary Scrapie Free Certification Program. Vermont producers will also not be able to ship cull sheep across state lines without a certificate of veterinary inspection. Vermont has initiated a state rule-making process to make their state Scrapie Control Program consistent with APHIS standards.

Maine is expected to make the necessary changes to their state Scrapie rules to become a consistent state. The other 48 states are all considered "consistent". Under these requirements, most sheep and goats must be officially identified, and records must be kept that meet NSEP standards.

## 2007 MLWP Annual Conference Set for Rochester

The 2007 MLWP annual Conference and trade show will be held Dec. 7-8 at the Best Western in Rochester. The theme this year is *Planning for the Future*.

The MLWP Board of Directors is still in the process of lining up topics and speakers. There will be presentations on *Livestock Risk Protection for Lambs (LRP-Lamb)*, the new *NRC Nutrient Requirements for Sheep*, *Stress Management During Lambing*, *Ag in the Classroom*, *Scrapie*, and much more. A detailed agenda will be available in a future issue of the newsletter.

We have had several excellent suggestions so far. If you have ideas for additional speakers and/or topics you'd like to see, contact Jeremy Geske at [jgeske@fbmn.org](mailto:jgeske@fbmn.org) or 952-758-7938; or talk to your regional director.

Again this year, the *Make It With Wool (MIWW)* competition will be held on Saturday in conjunction with the annual conference. For more details on the MIWW contest, visit [www.mlwp.org](http://www.mlwp.org), or contact Glenette Sperry at [gtsperry@peoplepc.com](mailto:gtsperry@peoplepc.com) or 651-257-0827.

Other conference highlights include: The Friday night Banquet (with entertainment) and fundraiser auction, Saturday's Silver Bell Luncheon, and the trade show.

"The annual conference is a great time for sheep producers to come together, have a little fun, and maybe even learn a thing or two," said MLWP President Jeremy Geske. "There are sessions for beginning and experienced producers. Its also the perfect time for members to provide input on how the organization can better serve the sheep industry in Minnesota."

## MN/SD to Host NLFA Leadership School

The 2007 Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, is scheduled for July 22-25, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, under the direction of Mike Caskey of Minnesota West Community & Technical College. Caskey explained the program will focus on what it takes to be a leader in today's agricultural community; as well as touring Midwest sheep operations, lamb processing facilities, and providing opportunities to meet one-on-one with ewe flock producers, lamb feeders, processors and retailers.

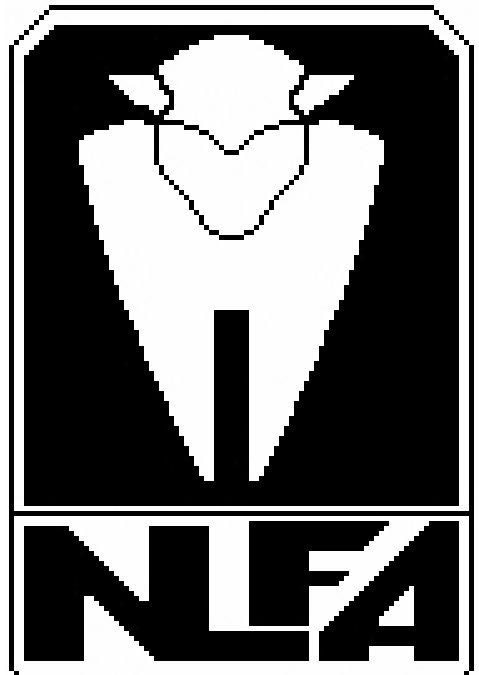
"The Leadership School has a long history of turning out a high percentage of individuals who have become outstanding sheep industry leaders," said Caskey. "This is one of the real reasons for attending." The class is limited to 25 participants, age 20 or older who are serious about

becoming sheep industry leaders. Applications were due on May 1. (Watch the NLFA website next winter for information on the 2008 leadership school: [www.nlwa-sheep.org](http://www.nlwa-sheep.org).)

Once accepted, students will be notified and asked to submit the \$100 registration fee. Travel expenses to and from the school are the student's responsibility; however, the National Lamb Feeders Association provides meals, lodging, and tour-related expenses.

The National Lamb Feeders Association is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to initiate, sponsor and carry out plans, programs, policies and activities which will promote, encourage and improve the production of lambs and sheep in the United States and any place in the world.

MLWP board members Dan Persons and Jeremy Geske attended the 2006 leadership school in Greeley, Colorado.





## MN Suffolk Youth Scholarships Available

The Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association (MSSA) has an opportunity for all youth ages 20 and under to receive an association sponsored scholarship (buyer's credit). Rick Manthei, MSSA president reports that there will be three \$100 scholarships available.

The scholarships will be good toward the purchase of Suffolk breeding stock at the MN State Suffolk Sale in Faribault, or the Minnesota Bred Ewe Sale in Rochester, MN. The MSSA State Sale takes place Sunday July 22 at 2:00 p.m. The MN Bred Ewe Sale is held on the last Saturday in November.

"Another exciting buying opportunity exists this year. New to

the MSSA Sale is a \$100 buyer premium on each of the four champions (Champion & reserve Champion Ram, Champion and Reserve Champion Ewe)," said Manthei. "The potential exists for a Jr. member to get \$200 off of the purchase of one the champions consigned to the sale (\$100 from the scholarship and \$100 from the buyer's premium)."

Youth interested in applying for the scholarship should send an essay to Rick Manthei. "I am not an English teacher," said Manthei, "regardless of your age or writing capabilities we want to know why you want this money to purchase Suffolk breeding stock. There is not an official essay

format, but I would like to see a paragraph on who you are (including your age) and a couple paragraphs on your plans or goals for your sheep project."

Applications can be mailed to:

Rick Manthei  
23054 US HWY 71  
Sanborn, MN 56083  
manthei@rrcnet.org

For more information about the MSSA contact Rick Manthei, Pres. at the email address above or Jeff Benda, Sec./Treas. at 507-348-4854. MSSA dues are only \$10 for a Sr. membership and \$5 for a Jr. membership.

### Don't miss the Minnesota State Suffolk Show & Sale



2006 MSSS Champion Ram



2006 MSSS Champion Ewe

**2007 MN State Suffolk Show & Sale**  
**Rice County Fairgrounds, Faribault, MN**  
**Open Show - Saturday, July 21, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Sale - Sunday, July 22, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Jr. Show - Sunday morning**

*Selling 25-35 head of rams and ewes from the state's top breeders!*

To receive a sale catalog, contact Jeremy Geske at:

jgeske@fbmn.org/612-756-1200

## Legislative Update

### Johnson Testifies Before U.S. Senate on Farm Bill

Burdell Johnson, ASI president, delivered testimony to the Senate Agriculture Committee on Wednesday where he conveyed the priorities of sheep producers in this country as they relate to the next Farm Bill. Johnson participated on a panel of livestock producers for the direction of the next Farm Bill.

"I am proud of the accomplishments the sheep industry has made nationally with flock expansion, a successful industry-funded lamb promotion program and putting American wool into the international market place. The 2002 Farm Bill gets some of the credit for our industry's success, and we strongly support the committee's effort to address the next farm legislation.

"The Wool Loan Deficiency Program, as included for the first time in the 2002 bill, was implemented in a timely manner by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for shorn wool and unshorn pelts. However, it is clear that the base loan rate should be set at \$1.20 per pound as supported in the initial research so the program works for all producers as intended. Only one of nine loan categories is utilized at the current base.

"The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, a very successful program of USDA to assist lamb and wool businesses with loans and grants to rebuild infrastructure, should be re-authorized in the Farm bill. \$20 million in funding would complete the \$50 million authorization of the 1996 legislation.

"Regarding the conservation title of the Farm Bill, our industry supports a priority of prescriptive grazing with sheep for control of noxious weeds and invasive species. In the rangelands of

the United States, both of these are serious problems, and we believe prescribed livestock grazing is a very effective tool. Prescribed grazing can be expanded to a revenue option for farmers and ranchers, which in turn strengthens the economies of rural areas of the country.

"We look forward to working with the committee in re-authorization of two programs and consideration of conservation program emphasis on prescriptive sheep grazing for weed and invasive species control. These programs are very helpful to individual producers as well as the entire lamb and wool business and can help us continue re-building the sheep industry.

"Regarding competition issues, we urge implementation of interstate shipment of state inspected meat so producers have access to more marketing opportunities for lamb.

"Mandatory Price Reporting legislation, as approved last fall, helps sheep producers compete. I would add that it has already been six months since approval and we are still waiting for rules to be issued and reporting to be re-established.

"ASI supports Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) of lamb. I would add that, in our view, speeding up the regulations for COOL might be troublesome given the problems of securing rules again for mandatory price reporting.

"An international competition issue we urge committee consideration on is sheepmeat trade reform. ASI believes the federal government must address the European government's sheep subsidies of \$2 billion annually as well as the strict tariff quota system they employ against imported lamb meat. We are pleased to share a report of



2006 entitled Sheepmeat Trade Reform--The Global Benefits, which provides the direction to level the playing field.

"I add my appreciation for the efforts to find disaster assistance for livestock producers, as the 2006 drought conditions actually decreased our sheep inventory despite early projections of continued growth. Operations in New Mexico weaned lamb crops as small as 35% due to dry ewes, stillborn lambs and weak lambs that died. Reduced pasture and water situations were severe from Texas north to my farm in North Dakota. I can attest that the drought continues for most, and when combined with drastically higher fuel and feed costs, many producers are in trouble."

### Canadian Bluetongue, Anaplasmosis Policies Changed for US Livestock

Canada has adjusted its bluetongue and anaplasmosis requirements for cattle, sheep and goats. Three changes should allow live trade to flow a bit easier to Canada:

- 1) All classes of US cattle can enter Canada year round without any bluetongue-related import requirements.
- 2) Bluetongue restrictions have been lifted for sheep, goats, and other ruminants imported to Canada for breeding purposes.
- 3) Testing requirements for cattle for anaplasmosis have been reduced.



## Legislative Update - cont.

“This is the first time since January 2004 that the door has been open at all for sheep and goat breeding animals,” states Dr. Debbie Barr, Canada’s national manager of imports and exports, animal health division. “In the past, sheep and goats were allowed to cross the border for slaughter and for feeding for slaughter but breeding animals were banned until now.”

### Senate Introduces Two Interstate Meat Shipment Bills

Under current law, USDA is responsible for administering and overseeing state meat inspection programs in cooperation with the states. Two bills have been introduced in the senate that take different approaches to allowing interstate sales of state-inspected meat and poultry.

Sens. Hatch (Utah) and Enzi (Wyo.) introduced legislation (S. 1150) to allow interstate sales of state-inspected meat and poultry. S. 1150 eliminates the prohibition on interstate shipments of state-inspected meat and poultry products. States would be required to: 1) enter into new cooperative agreements with USDA to administer their inspection programs; 2) adopt laws and regulations which are identical to the federal inspection program; 3) comply with USDA labeling requirements but retain use of their official state inspection mark; 4) USDA will reimburse states for not less than 50 percent of the state costs for operating the inspection program; 5) the size of plants that can be accepted into a state inspection program is limited to 50 employees (to control potential costs of administering state inspection programs); 6) USDA will continue to sample both federal and state-inspected products to confirm enforcement of food safety requirements; 7) USDA will continue to conduct annual reviews of state

inspection programs to ensure compliance with the new cooperative agreement; and 8) outlines procedures for USDA to take control of state inspection programs if a state fails to comply with the new agreement.

Sens. Kohl (Wisc.), Baucus (Mont.) and Conrad (N.D.) have introduced legislation (S. 1149) that takes a different approach to allow interstate sales of state-inspected meat and poultry. S. 1149 simply removes the statutory prohibition on interstate shipments of state-inspected meat poultry. The Kohl bill strikes out the interstate prohibition clause in the current legislation, but the bill does not spell out any new or additional conditions or requirements for the state inspection programs. This means that states will continue to maintain their current cooperative agreements with USDA (which require state inspection programs to be "at least equal to" the federal inspection program). USDA will continue their oversight of state programs, which includes an annual review of nine detailed components. States will still be required to implement any directives and guidance issued by USDA.

### Safe Food Act Introduced

The Safe Food Act of 2007, HR 1148/S. 654, has been introduced by Rep. DeLauro (CN.) and Sen. Durbin (IL). The legislation would move all food safety inspection activities from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and USDA to a newly-created, independent food safety agency. AFBF has sent the attached letter of

Farm groups, such as Farm Bureau oppose this legislation because they support designating USDA as the sole agency responsible for food safety. They oppose creating a new food safety agency because:

A significant overhaul of the food safety system is unnecessary and potentially dangerous. Such a change is disruptive since both producers and processors have built internal food safety systems around the current regulatory structure. Furthermore, serious food-borne illness outbreaks could occur while the country transitions to a new inspection model. USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service has decades of highly-specialized food safety expertise, which could be lost if those authorities were transferred to a new agency.

### Horse Slaughter

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, H.R. 503/S. 311 , continues to attract cosponsors. There are 144 cosponsors in the House (including Ramstad and McCollum) and 24 in the Senate.

If enacted, H.R. 503/S. 311 would close the equine processing facilities currently operating in the U.S., eliminating the only market for unwanted, unmanageable and neglected horses. About 100,000 horses were processed last year as food for zoos and human consumption outside the U.S. A study funded by the Animal Welfare Council shows a ban on horse processing would reduce the value of all horses by \$304 per head.

### MN Ag Sales Tax Exemptions

The Senate and House Tax bills include a provision to expand the sales tax exemption to include fencing for all livestock (currently only fencing for farmed deer and elk is exempt).

### Wolf De-listing Lawsuit

The Humane Society of the United States, Help Our Wolves Live and the Animal Protection Institute have filed a lawsuit against the USF&WS to stop the de-listing. We’ll keep you posted.

## No More BAA Booth?

For many years, the MOO Booth, OINK Booth, and BAA Booth have provided an avenue for livestock producers to interact with consumers at the state fair. While the cattle and pork producers seem to have no problem getting adequate numbers of volunteers to staff their booths, the sheep producers have not had much luck finding people to man the BAA Booth.

The BAA Booth is located in the open class sheep barn at the state fair. It needs to be manned the first 8 days of the state fair (after that, the barn is used for the open goat show).

At our winter board meeting,

MLWPA decided to discontinue the BAA Booth unless someone is willing to step forward and provide leadership to a BAA Booth Committee. A couple of satellite representatives have expressed an interest in serving on the committee, but so far, we do not have a Baa Booth Chairperson.

### What is needed:

- Someone to chair the BAA Booth Committee.
- The BAA Booth Committee to present a budget and a plan for operating the booth at a future MLWP board meeting.

MLWPA will consider reinstating the BAA Booth if we have a chairperson, a reasonable plan, and a budget necessary to carry out the plan.

### If you want to help:

If you would consider chairing the BAA Booth Committee (or serving on the committee), contact Jeremy Geske (jgeske@fbmn.org or 952-758-7938).



## Bo Knows Best - from Trent Loos 4/23/07

Speaking of horses, if you missed it last week the Illinois House of Representatives voted to Ban Horse Harvesting in the State. This week on Wednesday the U.S. Senate committee on Science, Commerce & Transportation will have a session about the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.

Bo Derek has spent the past few years lobbying to stop harvesting horses in the U.S. No one in the past two years has generated a solution as to what would do with 100,000 unwanted horses if we enact laws eliminating harvesting or transporting to harvest. We have already heard reports of horses being dumped into

state parks around the nation. So I have decided to launch the Bo Knows Best Journey. If Bo wants us to stop harvesting horses I assume she has a plan for all these unwanted horses.

On May 7, we will start in Dekalb, IL, and travel Interstate 80 picking up unwanted horses. Stops are already planned in Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and California. We will deliver these unwanted horse to Bo Derek's Ranch in Santa Barbara, CA.

If you have an unwanted horse please contact me and we will arrange for it to get on the truck. My plan is to have as many states represented as possible in this load of unwanted horses.

Yes, it will cost quite a bit of money simply to transport these horses to California, so if you don't have an unwanted horse but would like to contribute to the cause, please send \$25 to:

Trent Loos

P.O. Box 545

Loup City, NE 68853

Please put "Bo knows best" in the memo line on your check.

Always together for American agriculture,

Trent Loos

## MN Sheep Exhibition Health Rules/Requirements

[http://www.bah.state.mn.us/animals/rules/exhibition\\_rules.htm](http://www.bah.state.mn.us/animals/rules/exhibition_rules.htm)

## Proper Disposal of Dead Sheep and Goats

Mortalities are an inevitable part of any sheep or goat farm. Proper disposal of dead livestock is important in terms of protecting our environment, good neighbor relations, disease prevention and predator control. There have been reports of dead sheep and goats being dumped in road ditches in parts of Minnesota. This is obviously not acceptable.

Below is some information you should know about disposal of livestock mortalities from the feedlot permit rules:

- Animal mortalities shall not be disposed of in liquid manure storage areas.
- Animal mortalities shall be stored, handled, treated, or disposed in such a manner as to not cause a discharge to surface or ground waters of the state, and comply with all applicable requirements of the Board of Animal Health.

According to the Board of Animal Health:

MN Statute 35.82 Subd. 2

a) every person owning or controlling any domestic animal that has died or been killed otherwise than by being slaughtered for human or animal consumption, shall as soon as

reasonably possible bury the carcass at a depth adequate to prevent scavenging by other animals in the ground or thoroughly burn it or dispose of it by another method approved by the board as being effective for the protection of public health and the control of livestock diseases. ... (rules about rendering appear next)...

c) An authorized employee or agent of the board may enter private or public property and inspect the carcass of any domestic animal that has died or has been killed other than by being slaughtered for human or animal consumption. Failure to dispose of the carcass of any domestic animal within the period specified by this subdivision is a public nuisance...

(d) A sheep producer may compost sheep carcasses owned by the producer on the producer's land without a permit and is exempt from compost facility

specifications contained in rules of the board.

(Composting is allowed for swine, sheep, goats, and poultry.)

### Composting

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has a handbook on composting animal mortalities. This 30-page manual can be found at:

[www.mda.state.mn.us/composting/compostguide.pdf](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/composting/compostguide.pdf)

If you don't have internet access, contact Mary Hanks at MDA at 1-800-967-2474.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health has more information on composting animal carcasses at:

[www.bah.state.mn.us/animals/carcass\\_disposal/composting.html](http://www.bah.state.mn.us/animals/carcass_disposal/composting.html).

Or you can call 651-201-6808.



### Sad, Sad News...

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death last week of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed. Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey" died peacefully at the age of 93.

The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in..... And that's when the trouble started.

Shut up !!..... You know it's funny.... I don't care who you are.

## Calendar of Events

### 2007

May 12-13	Shepherd's Harvest Festival	Lake Elmo, MN
June 2-3	MN Goat Expo	Howard Lake, MN
June 16	MLWPA Board Mtg	Glencoe, MN
June 22-25	NLFA Leadership School	Sioux Falls, SD
July 21	MN State Suffolk Show	Faribault, MN
July 22	MN State Suffolk Sale	Faribault, MN
Aug 24	MN State Fair 4-H Sheep Show	St. Paul, MN
Sept. 21	Newell Ram Sale	Newell, SD
Oct. 27	Northstar Bred Ewe Sale	Pipestone, MN
Nov. 17-19	MN Farm Bureau Annual Mtg	Bloomington, MN

Nov. 24	Rochester Bred Ewe & Doe Sale	Rochester, MN
Dec. 7-8	MLWP Annual Conference Best Western	Rochester, MN
Dec. 8	Make It With Wool contest	Rochester, MN

#### Future Newsletter Schedule:

Winter	Conference Highlights / Legislative Issues
Spring	Events & Issues
Summer	State Fair Issue
Fall	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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