

Shepherd's Bulletin



Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association

MLWPA Leaders Bring Your Voice to D.C.

Spring 2010

Five Minnesota sheep producers participated in the American Sheep Industry (ASI) Spring Trip to D.C. to lobby our congressional delegation on issues important to the sheep industry. Sheep industry leaders from across the country delivered a strong message on capitol hill.

Mike Lippert, who represents the lamb feeders on the ASI Board of Directors, joined John & Bernie Dvorak and Jeremy & Tracy Geske who represented MLWPA on the trip. The group met with the offices of Senators Klobuchar and Franken, as well as six of our congressional offices including: Chairman Peterson, Chairman



L to R: Mike Lippert, Jeremy & Tracy Geske, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bernie & John Dvorak

Oberstar, Kline, Paulsen, Walz, and Bachmann. In addition to the hill visits, participants attended the annual lamb chop barbeque (which served delicious lamb chops to over 200 congressional members and staff, agency staff and sheep industry leaders), met with

numerous USDA officials, and toured the New Zealand Embassy.

The groups primary message to our Senators and Congressmen was to urge the US Fish & Wildlife Service to expedite the de-

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President's Message - Don Adelman

With the last of the beans going in its time to take a break and make a little hay. This year's early spring has provided a good start to haying season.

Thanks to all that helped at the Shepherd's Harvest Festival. It was good to see

old friends and make some new friends.

Plan to attend the Shepherd's Holiday this December on Saturday and Sunday, December 4th and 5th. This year bring your family and friends to Jackpot Junction in Morton, MN.

Please send your nominations for the Silver Bell Award to me – Don Adelman, 10980 Little Ave, Cologne MN 55322.

Hope your summer season goes well for you and your flock.

www.mlwp.org

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U of M Extension - Sheep class

The University of Minnesota Extension Small Farms Program will offer a short course on livestock on Monday evenings this coming June 7, 14, 21, and 28. This is a continuation of the Living on the Land-Livestock series.

The classes are for farmers who have little or no experience with livestock, or for urban dwellers who would like to own livestock at some time in the near future, but are not well-versed in the care and management of livestock.

The four-session series will give an overview of all domestic species, and

issues related to production management. The first two sessions will be taught in 365 Haecker Hall on the St Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. Topics to be covered during the first two nights include but are not limited to: facilities, feeds, zoonotics, disease and prevention, and manure management. Poultry and pork and their management needs will be discussed during these two nights.

The last two sessions will be taught at the University's UMore Park/Rosemount facility. **On June 21 we'll discuss topics related to management of sheep and goats for wool, meat, and dairy production.**

On June 28 we'll look at issues related to management of beef. There is a flock of sheep and a beef herd at UMore Park, so participants will be able to observe various handling/management practices during those sessions.

The fee for the course is \$80, for which participants can bring a spouse or a friend. Please contact Wayne Martin for more information, at

612-625-6224, or at marti067@umn.edu.

[Ed. note: I believe classes start at 5:30 p.m. - contact Wayne to verify]

MLWPA leaders to D.C. - *cont.*

listing process for the Gray Wolves. Gray Wolf numbers in Minnesota are

"We thanked Chairman Peterson for his strong support of the sheep industry and agriculture in general." Mike Lippert

more than double the recovery goal - clearly they are no longer endangered. De-listing would allow livestock producers a little more flexibility in protecting their animals. In the meantime we need adequate funding for predator control programs. All eight offices were supportive on this issue. **[Ed. note: Cong. Kline has sent a letter to USFWS, Senator Klobuchar and Chairman Oberstar have sent a joint letter to USFWS, others have indicated a letter is forthcoming].**

Our second issue was the re-authorization of mandatory price reporting which is set to expire in September of this year. Our message was well received. Several indicated

"We kept our messages simple, and we offered practical solutions. We made a difference today." Jeremy Geske

they would follow Chairman Peterson's lead on this issue.

In addition, we talked about estate tax reform, the H2A guest worker program, and the next farm bill. Again, we had good discussion with the congressional offices on these issues. ASI provided some excellent background information on these issues and handouts we could leave with each office. MLWPA would

like to thank the MN DNR and the MN Dept. of Ag for providing current data on wolf depredation in Minnesota that was requested by several offices.

The morning at USDA featured a number of speakers on a variety of topics including: grazing, predator control, disease programs, trade, and more. Participants had the opportunity to provide feedback on a number of USDA programs.

"It was a good experience, I'd do it again." John Dvorak

Overall, it was a great trip, and well worth the time and effort. Somehow we even managed to teach Mike Lippert how to ride the Metro.

Feeding Soy Hulls and Dried Distillers Grain with Solubles to Sheep Jeff Held - SDSU

Co-products from corn and soybean processing industries can be excellent sources of nutrients for livestock. With the growth of ethanol production from corn and increasing number of soybeans processed in the Upper Midwest, livestock producers have many nutrient-dense coproduct feed resources readily available. In the Upper Midwest distillers dried grain with solubles (DDGS) derived from ethanol production and soybean hulls (SH) from soybean processing have created the greatest interest to sheep producers.

Using pelleted SH for mature breeding ewes as a forage source has increased dramatically across the Upper Midwest during the past 5 years, especially in drought stricken areas.

Recommendations for SH use in ewe diets have been based on research at the SDSU sheep research unit where non-pregnant mature ewes were fed slightly above maintenance requirement by offering 4 lb of pelleted soybean hulls and 1 lb of long-stemmed alfalfa hay daily. Ewes

were fed this diet for 60 days with no ill health, and ewe body weight change was a positive 0.1 lb per day. (In beef and dairy cattle studies, recommendations are to limit soybean hulls to 40% of dry matter intake due to concern for bloat.)

Studies with growing lambs fed SH based diets have reported excellent growth performance and palatability. Soy hulls stimulate intake; studies demonstrate that intake increases linearly with higher levels of soy hulls.

Although SH is a high fiber feedstuff, the rate and extent of fermentation in the rumen is rapid, leading to increased rate of passage; it is these features that contribute to increased feed intake. Growing lambs fed a diet containing 70% SH had a reported dry matter intake equivalent to 4.5% of animal body weight. Compared to more traditional corn based diets, lamb dry matter intake of SH is often increased by 0.5 to 1.0% of animal body weight.

Ewe lactation studies using DDGS compared to soybean meal as a protein supplement show no difference in

ewe body condition score or suckling lamb gain. A lactation study using DDGS to replace 2/3 of the grain (corn), equating to 25% of the diet, improved triplet-reared lamb growth performance by 12%. There was no difference in single and twin reared lambs.

The high cost of commercially manufactured lamb protein supplements has created producer interest in inclusion of DDGS and other co-products in lamb diets. Since the level of crude protein in DDGS is approximately 40% lower than in soybean meal (30 vs. 48% CP), the cost per unit of crude protein will need to favor DDGS to substitute for soybean meal in mixed lamb diets. Even when the economics favor DDGS the high inclusion rate adds considerably more phosphorus to the diet, creating greater diet formulation challenges.

[Ed. note: This article is just a portion of Dr. Held's publication - get the whole article at:

<http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/ExEx2052.pdf>



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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MLWPA Spring 2010 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the MN Lamb & Wool Producers was called to order at 12:15 pm on Saturday, April 10, 2010 by President Don Adelman at the Pizza Ranch in Glencoe. In attendance: Karen Stormo, Glenette Sperry, Kirk Roe, Don Adelman, Jeremy Geske, Dan Persons, Steve Scheffert, Becky Utecht; also present at the call to order: Youth Association members JT Roe, Jackie Oelke, Jodee Oelke. Youth Coordinator Lynne Lee and additional youth members arrived later for the youth meeting.

The agenda was approved with two additions. The Minutes of the January 9 meeting were approved as submitted. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. Glenette Sperry reported that the taxes are done and the ALB Youth Grant final report has been submitted. The balance in the checking and savings as of 4/9/10 was \$75,619.36.

Membership/Directory/Newsletter:

Jeremy Geske reported that membership numbers are good [**260+ as of 5/18**]. He will send out another reminder to unpaid members prior to doing the Directory. Ad deadline for the directory is May 1st. Directories will be mailed out with the Spring Newsletter. Submissions for the newsletter will be accepted until 5/20.

Youth Committee:

Board discussion regarding the direction of the Youth Association and Lambassador program took place and was resumed later with the arrival of Coordinator Lynne Lee. The Board decided to retain two 2009 Lambassadors for 2010 and re-organize the Lambassador selection process for the future. The Board will

receive Lambassador applications and make the selection(s). Motion made seconded and passed to set up installation of Lambassador(s) to coincide with the terms of the Board; Lambassador(s) will serve as Youth Association Chair(s); and the Youth committee will present a budget to the MLWP Board by Nov. annually.

ASI/ALB:

Dan Persons and Glenette Sperry attended the ASI meetings in Nashville. A thank you letter from Dick Boniface was passed around. Jeremy Geske and John Dvorak will be going to Washington D.C. in May to meet with congressional leaders. Dan will submit a Scrapie Outreach grant application to ASI.

SEMSPA:

Kirk Roe reported that his family took an active part in the SE MN Sheep Producers clinic, including a speech by JT and a survey which Kirk shared with the Board. The Roe family also did a lamb promotion in a Blue Earth grocery store resulting in the sale of hundreds of pounds of lamb the weekend prior to Easter. Kirk reported that the SE MN Sheep Producers will conduct a multi-county sheep clinic this summer.

CVSP:

Jeremy Geske reported the Cannon Valley Sheep producers survey and activities. Also, Wayne Martin is planning a sheep workshop at UMore Park on May 17. Jeremy and Kyle Rozeboom (U of M) will be conducting the class. [**Ed. Note: date was changed to June 21**].

Old Business:

Budget: Clarification of funding –

the Lambassadors stipend is \$500 each (three are budgeted) and the Ag Institute funding is a separate item that comes out of Youth Budget. It is currently set at \$400, enough for four youth to attend.

Spring Workshop: The Spring workshop was held Saturday, March 20 at the Dvorak farm in Webster. Attendance was around 25-30 people. There were presentations on lamb promotion, entropion, scrapie, sheep health and showmanship. The committee is open to holding this event in other areas of the state.

Starter Flock Update: Information is available. Hoping for applicants.

Silver Bell Award: Will proceed with the selection process accepted by the Board at the January meeting. Regional Directors are asked to provide ideas for award recipients at the June meeting.

New Business:

Shepherd's Harvest –Glenette Sperry reported that MLWP will have a total of four booths Shepherd's Harvest this year. Jeremy has certificate of insurance for SH. Becky Utecht passed out 2010 SH booklets to Board members for distribution.

National Lamb Feeders School: Dan Persons received information on the the 2010 Howard Wyman Leadership Institute program. It will be held in Ohio this year and the focus is on lamb carcass production, evaluation, and meat cutting.

2010 Conference Planning: Jeremy Geske will meet with Steve May from the MN Cattleman's Association to coordinate the details. The conference

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Baa Booth Volunteer Application Form

Please consider volunteering for the 2010 Minnesota State Fair Baa Booth. The following information will help us make your experience in the Baa Booth rewarding and fun. **** Please note **** The Baa Booth runs for the first eight days of the Fair only (August 26th through September 6th)

Your Name _____ Phone (h) _____

Mailing Address _____ Cell phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please enter a current email address _____

If we need to call you regarding volunteer times, would you prefer daytime or evening? _____

Industry Affiliation (farmer, veterinarian, student, 4-H member, FFA member etc.) _____

Best times and dates for you? (You may select several times & dates) Feel free to volunteer for as long and as often as you wish, we only ask that you volunteer for at least a two-hour time block. (X) the days and times you can volunteer.

Help with set up prior to Fair _____

Thursday Aug 26th Morning _____

Thursday Aug 26th Afternoon _____

Thursday Aug 26th Evening _____

Friday Aug 27th Morning _____

Friday Aug 27th Afternoon _____

Friday Aug 27th Evening _____

Saturday Aug 28th Morning _____

Saturday Aug 28th Afternoon _____

Saturday Aug 28th Evening _____

Sunday Aug 29th Morning _____

Sunday Aug 29th Afternoon (Close at 3) _____

Monday Aug 30th Morning _____

Monday Aug 30th Afternoon _____

Monday Aug 30th Evening _____

Tuesday Aug 31st Morning _____

Tuesday Aug 31st Afternoon _____

Tuesday Aug 31st Evening _____

Wednesday Sept 1st Morning _____

Wednesday Sept 1st Afternoon _____

Wednesday Sept 1st Evening _____

Thursday Sept 2nd Morning _____

Thursday Sept 2nd Afternoon (Close at 2) _____

Do you have a sheep-related display, poster or demonstration you wish to bring with you to the booth? If yes please explain.

Have you previously volunteered in the Baa Booth?

Do you require any special accommodations to make your volunteer time easier?

Please return this completed form to:

Kirk & Jill Roe
BAA Booth Co-Chairpersons
320 E. 11th Street
Blue Earth, MN 56013-2147
(507) 526 - 5845 Home
(507) 525 - 0970 Cell
kwroe@bevcomm.net

Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Junior Activities

FFA Convention:

On April 26th, the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Junior Association Committee hosted a promotional booth at the 2010 State FFA Convention Career Fair held on the St. Paul University of Minnesota Campus. The Junior Association gave



Lynn Lee, Mercedes Lee and Dr. Chuck Christians at the FFA Convention

away informational and promotional

items donated by the American Lamb Board, the American Sheep Industry, and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. The career fair had about 3,000 FFA members, alumni, and guests in attendance, so it was an excellent promotional opportunity. J.T. Roe donated his boards to be used as display items for the booth. Youth Coordinator Lynn Rowland-Lee, Lambassador Mercedes Lee, and Dr. Chuck Christians worked at the booth. Also, Mercedes Lee gave a sheep industry update Tuesday morning at the last general session for the State Convention to 200 individuals. Overall, the event was a great success and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Sheppard's Harvest Festival:

On May 8th at the Sheppard's Harvest Festival held on the Washington County Fairgrounds, the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Junior Association Committee members were in attendance. Lambassadors Mercedes Lee and

Jodee Oelke, along with executive committee members J.T. Roe, Kelly Froehlich, and Eric Froehlich gave a



JT Roe, Kelly Froehlich, Mercedes Lee, Eric Froehlich and Jodee Oelke at the Shepherd's Harvest Festival

presentation on the different breeds of sheep and purposes for raising sheep. The crowd was inquisitive and very interested in learning more about the sheep industry, making it a valuable opportunity for committee members to share their knowledge and help promote the industry.

MLBA annual meeting features sheep producers

At the 114th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, the sheep industry representatives and MLWP members

Lynn Rowland-Lee, Mike Caskey, and Bret Oelke were the program developers. Bret Oelke organized the lamb meal, Mike Caskey was the MC,

and Lynn Rowland-Lee gave the invocation. The event was a great success!

ASI Announces 2010 Sheep Photo Contest

Attention all photographers: It is time to start thinking about the ASI 2010 Photo Contest. The contest is open to all, which means you do not have to be involved in the sheep industry to participate. The only rule is that your photograph must include sheep. Entries due by Aug. 20.

Entries will be judged on clarity, content, composition and appeal. More than \$1,000 will be awarded, with awards of \$125 going to the grand prize winner in each of the four categories, \$75 for the first runner-up in each category, and a \$50 prize for the second runner-up in each category.

The winning photos will be highlighted in the October issue of Sheep Industry News and at www.sheepindustrynews.org.

The four categories are action, scenic, people and sheep and open. Additional details are available at www.sheepusa.org.

Legislative Update

Gray Wolves

The MN DNR and Dept of Ag have filed a petition with USFWS to expedite the process of de-listing the gray wolf (again). This action was supported by numerous Ag organizations including MLWPA and Farm Bureau. (*see articles on p. 10*).

Congressman Kline (R) has sent a letter of support to USFWS. Senator Klobuchar (D) and Congressman Oberstar (D) have sent a joint letter of support. Senator Franken and Congressmen Peterson & Walz are sending a letter. If you have experienced wolf troubles, share your stories with your US Congressman and Senators. Also, thank Senator Klobuchar and Congressmen Kline and Oberstar for their support on this issue.

MLWPA leaders were in DC in May to lobby on this issue. In a related note, Congressman Oberstar has requested funding for MN/WI FWS for predator management (MLWPA supports this funding).

Mandatory Price Reporting

Mandatory price reporting for all meat animal species is set to expire in Sept. 2010. This program is critical for sheep producers to get accurate information about the value of their sheep and lambs, and it is essential for the LRP-lamb program to function.

ASI (&MLWPA) supports the reauthorization of this program. MLWPA leaders made it clear to our congressional delegation that we can't let this program expire again.

While the sheep industry is happy with the current program, other species are asking for minor changes. In addition, the dairy industry would like milk and milk products included. All

the farm groups agree that the program needs to be reauthorized by Sept. (*We will look to Chairman Peterson to make sure that happens.*)

Put Death Taxes to Rest

Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups are leading the charge for estate tax reform. Your help is needed.

Is Your Family-Owned Farm or Ranch in Jeopardy Because of Estate Taxes? Share Your Story Today!

The face of Agriculture is changed by the estate tax. Family farms can be altered or lost forever when family members must sell land, buildings and equipment to generate the money to pay the tax.

Congress needs to act before next year or a 55 percent tax will be imposed on farm and ranch estates worth \$1 million or more come January 1. Farm Bureau is seeking a higher exemption (\$5 million) that if unused can be transferred to a surviving spouse. We need your stories to help members of Congress understand how a lower exemption and higher rate will affect family farms.

The future of American agriculture depends on whether or not farms and ranches can be transferred to the next generation.

MLWPA leaders lobbied on this issue, and received support from some of our Congressional delegation, but not all understood how the death tax affects family farms. They need to hear from you.

Dispute Panel in COOL Case

A three member World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute panel has been formed to begin work on the country-of-origin-labeling (COOL)



case brought against the U.S. by Canada and Mexico. Canada and Mexico claim that the COOL requirements in the 2008 Farm Bill lead to discrimination against their products in the U.S. market. They maintain that COOL violates WTO rules requiring fair treatment between imported and domestic goods.

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, European Union, Guatemala, India, Japan, S. Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Chinese Taipei have reserved their rights to participate in the proceedings as third parties. The time period from the establishment of a panel to the issuing of a final report is usually 12 months.

USDA Announces New Standards for Foodborne Illness

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced new performance standards to reduce Salmonella and Campylobacter in young chickens (broilers) and turkeys, as recommended by the President's Food Safety Working Group. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) also released a compliance guide to help the poultry industry address Salmonella and Campylobacter and a compliance guide on known practices for pre-harvest management to reduce E. coli O157:H7 contamination in cattle.

Agriculture and Veterans Omnibus Policy Act Signed into Law

On Saturday, May 8 the Minnesota Senate passed the Agriculture and Veterans Omnibus Policy Act. The House passed the same measure on Monday, May 10 and it was signed into law by Governor Pawlenty on May 13. A summary of key provisions affecting agriculture can be found below.

Temporary Livestock Production Input Lien

A temporary livestock production input lien is available to a person who supplies inputs to a farmer during the 45 days following the farmer's request to enter mediation with one or more creditors under the state's Farmer-Lender Mediation Act. The lien amount value is set at the unpaid retail cost of the input.

Horse Definition

Horses and other equines raised for the purposes of riding, driving, farm or ranch work, competition, racing, recreation, sale or as breeding stock are now defined as livestock. Horses and their products are livestock and farm products for purposes of financial transactions and collateral. Raising equines is ag production and an agricultural pursuit. This does not apply to how land used for raising horses is treated for property tax purposes.

Wolf Depredation

Several changes were made to the state wolf depredation program that compensates farmers for livestock losses due to gray wolves. Minnesota DNR conservation officers will no longer recommend the fair market value of deceased livestock. This will only be done by a University of

Minnesota Extension agent. USDA officials, county peace officers and licensed veterinarians were added to the list of public entities that may investigate a gray wolf damage claim. A U of M Extension agent and a DNR conservation officer are the other entities that can conduct an investigation. A requirement that the investigator report any deficiencies in the livestock producer's adoption of wolf mitigation best management practices was eliminated.

Donations to Local 4-H Programs

The council of any city or the board of supervisors of any town may now spend money for county Extension work. County Extension work is defined as "educational programs and services provided by Extension educators in the areas of agriculture; agricultural finance; economic development; nutrition; youth leadership development including 4-H programs; leadership; and environment and natural resources." This provision will allow cities or towns to directly donate dollars to local 4-H programs.

Wind Easements

Provides an exemption to a prohibition against ownership of an interest in farmland by more- than- 20 percent- foreign-owned entities for an easement acquired to install and repair transmission lines and for wind rights. Foreign-owned entities acquiring wind easements under these conditions must report this to the MDA. A 2008 law that would eliminate a 7-year limit on the term of wind easements is delayed until 2012.

Federal Clean Air Act waivers

Two conditions must be met before a waiver granted by the United

States Environmental Protection Agency may increase Minnesota's ethanol mandate: (1) the waiver must apply to all vehicle model years, and (2) it must be accompanied by special regulatory treatment under federal law for associated fuel vapor pressure levels. Once these criteria are met, the mandate level will increase only after the MN Department of Commerce certifies that fuel suppliers are ready to move to the new mandate level.

Purchase of Restricted Use Pesticides

A person may not purchase a restricted use pesticide without presenting a MDA issued card or furnish the card number.

Dairy Research & Education Facility

MDA is required to convene a stakeholder group and report back to the legislature by Feb. 2011 on facility and financing options for a new dairy research and education facility.

Industrial Hemp Report

MDA is required to report back to the legislature on industrial hemp laws in Canada or other nations focused on how law enforcement and other authorities differentiate between industrial hemp and marijuana growing in the field.

Clipping or Shearing of Animals

The following provision in statute is eliminated: "No person who has custody of any animal which has had its hair removed by clipping or shearing shall cause or permit the animal to stand on a road, street, or other unsheltered place between November 1 and May 1 within 60 days after the clipping or shearing, unless the animal is blanketed. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor."

MN DNR Files Petition to Have Gray Wolf Delisted

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) filed a petition with the U.S. Department of the Interior asking that the Minnesota gray wolf be removed immediately from the federal government's endangered and threatened species list and returned to state management. The DNR asked the government to make its decision within the next 90 days.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has tried to delist the gray wolf in Minnesota and the western Great Lakes region from federal protection on two occasions. Both times the decision was overturned due to legal challenges related to procedural issues.

"We filed the petition because it is time to have the federal classification match the Minnesota reality," said DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten. "Federal officials agree that the Minnesota gray wolf population is not threatened or endangered. They agree our wolf management plan ensures the long-term survival of the wolf. They have seen it in action during 2007 and 2008, when the wolves in the Great Lakes Region were delisted."

A large part of modern wolf management is addressing human-wolf conflicts, according to the DNR. Since 1978, federal officials have trapped

and euthanized more than 3,000 Minnesota wolves in response to depredation of domestic animals. Most of these incidents have involved cattle in the forested regions of central and northern Minnesota, and the problem seems to be growing.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson supports the DNR's petition. "Since 1998, we have received more than 1,000 claims from producers who lost livestock to wolves, and Minnesota taxpayers have spent nearly a million dollars to compensate them for those losses," said Hugoson.

Agricultural Groups Support Delisting of Gray Wolf

The Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farmers Union, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers expressed their support for the action taken by the DNR.

"Minnesota's gray wolf population has clearly exceeded the recovery goals established under the federal Endangered Species Act," said MFBF President Kevin Paap. "We have more wolves than every state except Alaska. Once the wolf is delisted, our state has an effective wolf management plan in place to ensure a viable gray wolf

population in the future, while providing farmers and ranchers who suffer from wolf depredation more options for protecting their livestock."

Several farm groups support this action. "Wolves cause serious economic losses for livestock producers in Minnesota and this is an important step in helping to provide some relief," said MLWPA President Don Adelman. "Minnesota Farmers Union strongly supports the petition request from the DNR to de-list the gray wolf and urges the federal government to support the request,"

said MFU President Doug Peterson. "Minnesota Cattlemen applaud the petition that DNR filed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to delist the gray wolf," said MSCA President Ted Reichmann.

"Minnesota Farm Bureau will continue to work collaboratively with other farm groups and with our state and federal officials to once again remove the gray wolf from the threatened and endangered species list," said Paap.

MN Congressional delegation wants wolf de-listed faster

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Rep. Jim Oberstar have added their names to a growing list frustrated with the slow pace of action to drop federal protections for Great Lakes wolves. They have sent a letter asking the U.S. FWS to complete needed studies and remove the wolf from the federal endangered species list.

"We are confident that the (Endangered Species Act) has served its purpose and that the Minnesota DNR is ready and capable of ensuring the continued success of the wolf recovery and we urge you to consider the science and make your determination in a timely manner," Klobuchar and Oberstar wrote in a

letter to Rowan Gould, acting director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

[Ed. note: A similar letter was sent by Senator Franken, and Congressmen Walz, Peterson, Kline, Bachmann and Paulsen - Please thank your Senators and your Congressman for their support.]

MN Scrapie Eradication Program

The Minnesota Scrapie Eradication Program assists sheep and goat producers in identification, control, and eradication of Scrapie from their flock or herd. Nationally recognized as a leader in scrapie eradication, our program is one of the nation's largest and most successful and has served as a model for other states and countries.

The program consists of the following components:

- flock genotyping (or genetic testing) to determine a sheep or goat's susceptibility to Scrapie;
- identification of pre-clinical infected sheep through live-animal testing and slaughter surveillance;
- tracing of infected animals to their flock of origin; and
- providing effective cleanup strategies that allow producers to stay in business, preserve breeding stock, and remain economically viable.

When exposed or infected flocks are found, USDA provides indemnity, Scrapie testing, genotyping, and tracing of exposed animals sold from infected and source flocks.

Register today and receive FREE ear tags for your flock: Online (www.bah.state.mn.us) or by phone at 651-201-6809.

Scrapie Flock Certification Program

The Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) is a voluntary program that provides an opportunity for producers to protect their sheep from scrapie and enhance the marketability of their animals by certifying their flock as scrapie-free. The SFCP monitors flocks by conducting annual inspections over a five-year period to identify and certify scrapie-free flocks.

The longer a flock is enrolled and in compliance with program requirements, the greater the likelihood that the flock is scrapie-free. The United States Department of Agriculture registers flocks and maintains records.

FAQs about Scrapie ID

Who needs official Scrapie ID?

All sheep and goats, including wethers, must be officially identified for Scrapie upon movement from one flock to another and before they are commingled with sheep and goats from other flocks and herds.

In some instances, feeder/slaughter animals under 18 months of age may be moved without official identification. Call the Board at 651-201-6809 for more information.

What should I do if an animal loses an ear tag?

If one of your sheep or goats loses an

ear tag, you may replace it with one of your Scrapie tags if your records indicate the animal's origin. Any animal whose origin is unknown should not be tagged with your ear tags and the animal must be shipped directly to slaughter. This does not include shipping them to auction barns or other facilities where they may be sold for breeding. You will also need to record the new tag number in your records for that animal. Never allow other producers to use your ear tags.

What tag records do I need to keep?

Anyone who applies official identification that has been assigned to a producer must maintain the following records:

date the identification was applied;
number of sheep and goats identified;
identification numbers applied; and
name and address of the flock of birth, if different from the current flock.

How long am I required to keep these records?

All records pertaining to the movement of sheep and goats must be maintained for at least five years after the sale or disposition of the animal. Records must be available for inspection and copying at any reasonable time by any authorized agent of the board.

Learn more at www.bah.state.mn.us



Minnesota Board of Animal Health



ALB Welcomes Newly Appointed Board Members

We are pleased to welcome four new members to the American Lamb Board: Betty H. Sampsel, Stanford, Montana, and Alicia Dredge, Rupert, Idaho, representing producers; Daniel J Lippert, Blomkest, Minnesota, representing feeders and W. Reed Anderson, Brownsville, Oregon representing first handlers. Secretary of Agriculture

Tom Vilsack appointed the four new members to the Lamb Promotions, Research, and Information Board in January. The 13-member board is composed of six producers, three feeders, one seedstock producer and three first handlers. The Secretary of Agriculture appoints one third of all board members each year. All appointees will serve three-year terms. “I look forward to working with the new Boards members and want to thank retiring Board Members Margaret Magruder, Kevin Quam, Florence Cubbiburu, and Chico Denis for their hard work and outstanding contribution to the Lamb Industry” said ALB Chairman Lorin Moench Jr.”

Here Comes Lamb!

The American Lamb Board's public relations program generated widespread national media attention during the 2010 spring holiday season.

Bon Appetit (circ. 1.4 million) April 2010 April's issue of Bon Appetit highlighted the often overlooked nutritional value and taste of lamb in an article entitled, “Lean for Lamb.” The article, which notes lamb as an excellent source for protein, vitamin B12 and zinc, also states that, “Domestic lamb also has the advantage of being fresher and meatier” than imported alternatives.

Cooking Light (circ. 1.8 million) April 2010 April's Enlightened Cook section of Cooking Light featured a one-page spread on lamb, including, instructions for how to French a rack of lamb, a recipe for Herbed Rack of Lamb with Lingonberry Sauce, and an import vs. domestic comparison that espouses the “milder, lighter” flavor of American lamb compared to New Zealand lamb. The article also notes that American lamb is often sold fresh while imported varieties must be vacuum-sealed and frozen to maintain quality.

Houston Chronicle (circ: 384,419) 3/23/2010 Major U.S. daily newspaper, the Houston Chronicle, showcased American Lamb in a feature food article entitled, “There's A Lot To Love About Lamb.” The feature demonstrates the tremendous growth in popularity of this lesser known meat, as evidenced by lamb's presence in meat shops and on restaurant menus. Four American lamb recipes, with instructions and photos, accompany the article. The article was also picked up by the Miami Herald as “Move Over Ham, Here Comes Lamb;” and by the Modesto Bee as “Make it Lamb for Easter:”

Detroit Free Press (circ. 269,729 + 1.3 million online) 3/14/2010 As a result of the spring press kit mailing, American Lamb was featured in this timely food article entitled “Lamb Fits The Bill For 1 Or A Crowd.” The piece touts that “now is prime time for lamb” and explores a variety of cut and preparation options for how to cook and serve lamb. The article includes statistics from the American Lamb Board and key cut messaging, noting that, “Cuts from leg of lamb to rack of lamb to lamb loin chops are available at most stores year-round.”

The Herald-Mail (users: 171,000) 3/24/2010 After reviewing our spring press kit mailing, The Herald-Mail featured American Lamb in a timely holiday food article entitled “Try a Little Lamb.” The piece said, “Grilled, roasted or braised, lamb is what's for dinner for many families in the Tri-State area this Easter.” The article also explored cut options for holiday meals with input from food industry spokespeople and included cooking tips, times recipes and photos (provided) by the American Lamb Board.

American Lamb Takes Over Boston

Lamb Lovers recently took to the streets of Boston with lambtastic celebrations and events – all for the love of lamb! Local foodies, media, writers and lamb lovers converged across Boston to enjoy a variety of events, including Boston Chefs Restaurant Week in March, featuring American lamb dishes from Boston's top chefs, American Lamb Takedown for New England home cooks, and New England's culinary greats battled in the ultimate lamb throw down Lamb Jam! ALB promoted the events throughout February and March with 30 second TV ads, recipe segments and radio spots, partnering with local TV and radio personality Billy Costa to reach an audience of 3.8 million.

Get This: HSUS Targeting 4-H Kids Through 'Humane Teens' Campaign

As a kid, 4-H consumed my life. Through this youth program, I was able to try new things and learn from my experiences. Whether it was judging photography, showing steers and heifers, competing in speaking contests or making fun crafts, 4-H



opens up huge opportunities for kids in agriculture. Just like Carrie Underwood appealed to kids about becoming a vegetarian on PBS Kids a few years ago, I was told that Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) was recently given the chance to push their political agenda on teens at the 2010 National 4-H Conference on March 20-25, 2010.

4-H is an organization based on integrity, hard work, service to others and a passion for agriculture, yet, it certainly seems like nothing is sacred anymore. HSUS went directly to the future food producers of America to advance their mission to abolish animal agriculture and eliminate meat and dairy products from our diets. After reading their handout for kids at the conference, "Mission: Humane Action Guide" for teens, it's quite obvious they are trying to convert wholesome farm kids to campaigning, lobbying HSUS activists. Keep reading; you won't believe the propaganda they are pushing on today's youth.

The propaganda passed out during one of the workshops at the conference showed kids how to write letters to the editor, start a club, appeal to legislators, influence others and push for vegan meals in their school cafeterias. HSUS has 11 million

followers, and in 2009, they trained 2,100 activists, and it looks like they are aiming to pull in our youth, as well. Wayne Pacelle (CEO of HSUS) is clearly willing to do anything and everything these days to advance his agendas.

How did we let this happen? Who would have thought 4-H wouldn't yet know about HSUS and their hidden agendas? Was anyone at the conference? If so, what was said at the workshop? It's crystal clear that we still have a lot of work to do to educate others, including our colleagues, about the HSUS and their main mission to abolish animal agriculture in this country. We need to get started today. Spread the word and let our voices be heard. We cannot, will not, let HSUS influence kids in agriculture with their well-oiled campaign appeals.

by Amanda Nolz

BEEF Daily Blog – 4/1/10

Sheep Industry Creates Jobs

For every 1,000 producers raising sheep, 540 other jobs are created. Another way to look at these figures is to say that every 1,000 sheep generates 18 total jobs.

This information is extracted from Sheep Industry Economic Impact Analysis authored in 2008 by Julie

Shiflett, Juniper Economic Consulting. As of Jan. 1, 2008, there were just over 6 million total sheep resulting in 108,700 total jobs from this production.

"The total employment effect from sheep- and wool-byproduct sales at the retail level is up to 38,110 jobs created.

By adding this number to the total number of sheep producers in the United States in 2007 (70,590), the 108,700 total jobs is achieved."

The impact statement is available on the American Sheep Industry Association Web site at www.sheepusa.org/Publications.

Promotion Aims to Inspire Consumers to Grill Lamb

Davis, Calif.-based lamb processor Superior Farms has launched a nationwide "Go Mediterranean, Grill Lamb" sweepstakes with a prize of a Mediterranean cruise for two.

The sweepstakes will include 500,000 on-pack game pieces, specialized point-of-sale materials in major retailers and market areas and an online game on www.GrillLamb.com through the end of August.

The promotion comes on the heels of Superior Farms' introduction of a line of Mediterranean Grill products.

Reprinted in part from meatingplace.com

Pipestone Lamb and Wool Facility Tour, June 7, 2010

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program has dedicated itself to changing sheep production to make it more profitable for producers and is excited to offer a sheep facility tour. The purpose of the tour is to give producers an opportunity to see various types of sheep facilities, including the latest innovations in sheep buildings, handling systems, feeding systems and facility layout.

The tour will be a full day, visiting five Lamb and Wool producers with new and remodeled facilities. All of these operations have devised their

buildings and feeding systems to reduce labor and enable them to run larger numbers of ewes with the same labor. Tour participants will see state of the art lambing barns, hoop barns, remodeled buildings, hoop barn with drive through feeding along with various feeding systems designed to reduce labor and minimize feed waste. Each farm also has sheep handling systems that are unique from one another. In addition, this will be an opportunity to hear the philosophy of sheep production from five successful sheep producers.

Visit our website www.pipestonesheep.com for registration information and to view pictures of this years tour locations. Registration forms and additional information about our facility tour are available on our web page or individuals can contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, P.O. Box 250; Pipestone, MN 56164, (800) 658-2330, mike.caskey@mnwest.edu, or philip.berg@mnwest.edu.

Sheep Producers Heard on Capitol Hill

More than 50 American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) producer leaders from 25 states blanketed the Hill this week to represent the collective interests of the American sheep industry. These leaders visited the offices of their U.S. senators and representatives for the opportunity to talk about the industry's top issues.

Pursuing the continuation of mandatory price reporting was a top priority as producers talked with their respective congressional offices. Lamb meat prices, both domestic and imported, are collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The collection of data will cease in September unless Congress acts to reauthorize mandatory price reporting, which is critical to the continuation of the industry's Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb insurance product.

Other topics of discussion included the continued support of the livestock protection program of Wildlife Services, AgJobs legislation that codifies the H-2A shepherd provisions and sufficient funding for the continued work to eradicate scrapie.

"This annual visit to the Capitol keeps the issues of the sheep industry

in front of our decision makers," commented Bob Benson, co-chair of ASI's Legislative Council. "Having a large number of producers all on the Hill at the same time helps us to accomplish the goal of communicating our key issues."

Issues throughout the industry vary depending on location and size; however, many things remain consistent across all operations. This annual event for producer leaders provides a chance to advocate the industry's united efforts to federal policy makers.

Industry Animal Welfare Programs Presented to APHIS

The Animal Agriculture Alliance hosted a meeting this week that brought representatives from the sheep, beef, swine, turkey, chicken, veal and egg industries together with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The purpose of the program was to review and explain to APHIS the various industry-driven animal welfare/care programs. APHIS wanted to learn about the various industry programs to help them respond to public inquiries and to train its field staff.

The American Sheep Industry Association presented the Sheep Care Guide, available at www.sheepusa.org, as well as the Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance program.

2010 Animal Ag Alliance Summit: Agriculture Industry Encouraged to Unite, Respond

More than 20 speakers were called on to explore some of the greatest challenges facing food production at the Ninth Annual Stakeholders Summit, titled "Truth, Lies, and Videotape: Is Activism Jeopardizing Our Food Supply? The meeting was held April 28-29, 2010 in Arlington,

Virginia. Presenters addressed topics including antibiotic resistance, maintaining animal welfare, responding to activists and sharing agriculture's story with the public. While the issues discussed were diverse, a common theme connected many of the presentations. Agriculture

groups must be proactive and work together to provide a united response to detractors bent on eliminating the industry.

[Ed. note: Jeremy Geske attended on behalf of Farm Bureau. MN Turkey Growers and Cargill also had representatives from MN attend.]

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- Supports removing the Gray Wolf from the endangered species list
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- Supports mandatory price reporting
- Supports continued priority funding for scrapie eradication
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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.fbmn.org/MemberBenefits

Calendar of Events

2010		
June 1	Deadline for MLWPA starter flock applications	
June 7	Pipestone Sheep facility tour	Pipestone, MN
June 9	Columbia National Show & Sale	Minot, ND
June 3-5	Nugget All-American sheep sale	Reno, NV
June 12	Iowa Sheep Industry annual meeting	Adel, IA
June 12-13	Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival	Adel, IA
June 21	U of M Ext Sheep & Goat class - UMORE park	Rosemount, MN
June 21-26	Midwest Stud Ram Sale	Sedalia, MN
July 17	MN State Suffolk Show	Faribault, MN
July 18	MN State Suffolk Sale	Faribault, MN
Aug. 20	MN State Dorset Show	Fairmont, MN
Aug. 21	MN State Hampshire Show	Fairmont, MN
8/26-9/6	MN State Fair	St Paul, MN
Aug. 27	MN State Fair 4-H Sheep Show	St Paul, MN
Sept. 10-12	WI Sheep & Wool Festival	Jefferson, WI
Sept. 17	Newell Ram Sale	Newell, SD
Sept. 27	SD Sheep Growers Convention	Lead, SD
Oct. 30	North Star Bred Ewe Sale	Pipestone, MN
Nov. 6-19	North American International Livestock Expo	Louisville, KY
Nov. 27	MN Bred Ewe & Boer Goat Sale	Rochester, MN
Dec. 4-5	MLWPA Shepherd's Holiday	Morton, MN

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

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We're on the Web!
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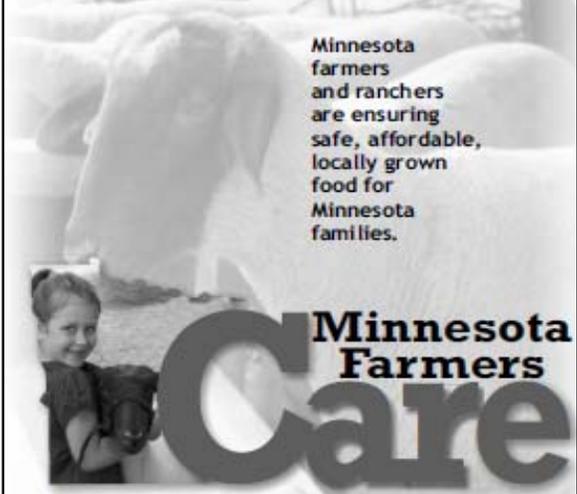
MLWP minutes cont.

will be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4-5, 2010 in Morton, MN at Jackpot Junction. There was discussion on the MIWW scheduling due to the changeover to the Sat-Sun time-frame. Board asked for Youth projects and suggested including a producer's tip session, along with the usual topics. Committee members are looking into options for the 2011 conference location, which will be in the metro or SE MN area.

USDA RMA Grant Opportunity: Dan Persons reported on a Partnership for Small Ag Risk opportunity that is available. He will check into the appropriate category for MLWP and the possibility of working out a project in conjunction with the Shepherd's Holiday.

Next meeting date set for Saturday, June 19, 2010 at the Pizza Ranch in Glencoe. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Becky Utecht, Secretary



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