



Minnesota Lamb & Wool
Producers Association

Shepherds' Bulletin

Summer 2004

MLWPA Officers

President – Bob Padula (320) 269-7973
1st VP - Jeremy Geske (952) 758-7938
2nd VP – Todd Schmidt (507) 377-1045
Treasurer - Jean Stark (320) 251-4237
Secretary - Sherry Stirling (651) 257-0827

MLWPA Regional Directors

North East – Werner Johnson (651) 257-0827
North West – Charles Stark (320) 251-4237
West Central – Mike Haubrich (320) 826-2526
South West - Doug Mathias (507) 376-9665
South East - Robin Schmidt (507) 377-1045
Metro - Patricia Anderson (952) 447-4148

Satellite Association Contacts

Cannon Valley Sheep Producers
Karen Geske (952) 758-7938
Crow River Lamb & Wool Producers
George Mead (763) 682-4626
Des Moines Valley Lamb & Wool
Gene Holmquist (507) 853-4409
Minnesota Hampshire Association
Jim Hickman (763) 682-3519
Minnesota Suffolk Sheep Association
Jerry Baumgartner (507) 335- 7739
South East Minnesota Sheep Producers
Todd Schmidt (507) 377-1045
Upper Midwest Dynamic Dorsets
Deric Sievert (507) 834-6851
West Central Sheep Producers
Judy Johnston (320) 589-1243
Country Meadow Farms Cooperative
Charles Christians (651) 633-7598

MLWPA Web Address:

www.mlwp.org

President's Notes - Bob Padula

With high lamb and wool prices, there is lots of optimism in the sheep industry. How long these prices will remain is a big question. We know sheep and lamb inventory numbers are low world-wide. Coupled with currency exchange rates, it looks favorable for these prices to hold in the short term. The relief from drought and USDA Ewe Lamb Retention Program should help stabilize numbers in the United States.

We are in an international business climate with our sheep operations whether we like it or not. Trade agreements, currency exchange rates, world-wide economies are a driving force behind our market prices and many of them are beyond our control.

It wasn't too long ago that the collapse of the Russian Ruble sent live lamb prices down over \$15 per hundred-weight over night, driven by the export market for lamb pelts – or lack of it. US lamb and wool prices have rebounded due to increased demand, lower supply world-wide, droughts and changes in exchange rates. It is a risky business we are in. There is a futures market for wool – but how many of our bankers want us to get involved in a futures market in another country, dependant upon exchange rates and demand for textiles manufactured in 3rd world countries whose production is based on their local economy and world trade agreements to benefit their local economies and infrastructure? Not mine.

A major project and undertaking for the sheep industry is to have some kind of risk management tools available for our industry in the US. Other commodities have tools in place which help stabilize prices such as insurance and futures markets. It helps with securing loans and making business decisions when you can lock in prices or take away some of the risk. Without these tools, our infrastructure support will continue to be limited due to market price risk.

American Lamb Board News

ALB Market Info Available to Industry

The American Lamb Board (ALB) reviewed the first quarter 2004 "Sheep Industry in Review" market report during its board of directors meeting held in San Angelo May 21-22, 2004. Below you will find the highlights of the full report, which provides the American lamb industry with timely information that is helpful in our marketing and promotional efforts. The full report will be available on the ALB website www.americanlambboard.org after June 8, or you can contact our office at 866/327-5262 to receive a copy. Additional reports of the "Sheep Industry in Review" will be posted to the website on a quarterly basis as soon as they become available.

Sheep Industry in Review, First Quarter 2004 Highlights:

Slaughter-Lamb Prices

Average slaughter-lamb prices were \$98.94/cwt in February, \$102.50/cwt in March, and \$92.90/cwt in April 2004.

Feeder-Lamb Prices

Average feeder-lamb prices were \$109.79/cwt in February, \$127.88/cwt in March, and \$120.80/cwt in April 2004.

Lamb Production

Sheep and lamb production totaled 13.9 million pounds in February, and 18.4 million pounds in March, and 19.3 million pounds in April 2004

Lamb Slaughter

647,777 head were slaughter in Q1 2004, down from 695,655 head in Q1 2003.

Live Slaughter-Lamb Weights

Average live weights were 140.50 pounds in February, 145.75 pounds in March and 137 pounds in April 2004.

Leg Prices

Average price of a leg was \$222.09/cwt in February, \$260.03/cwt in March and \$271.39/cwt in April 2004.

Loin Prices

Average price of a loin was \$384.01/cwt in February, \$398.13/cwt in March and \$392/cwt in April 2004.

Lamb Imports

Total lamb imports were 26.4 million pounds in January and February 2004, compared to 17.2 million pounds in January and February 2003. Imports averaged 57% of domestic production in 2002, 71% in 2003, and 94% in January and February 2004.

Exports to Mexico

Sheep and lamb (mostly slaughter ewe) exports to Mexico totaled 23,918 head in Q1 2004, down from 55,547 head in Q1 2003.

SPENCE RULE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN, NICK FORREST VICE-CHAIR

Spence Rule of Brighton, Colorado was appointed to serve as the Chairman of the American Lamb Board at their Annual Meeting in Sacramento January 25, 2004. Rule will serve a one year term as Chairman. Spence represents lamb feeders on the American Lamb Board but also is a sheep producer and packer. His feeding operation is in Brighton, Colorado. Spence has served on the Boards of the American Sheep Industry Association, the National Lamb Feeders Association, and the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

Nick Forrest of Oxford, Ohio was appointed to serve a one year term as Vice-Chairman. Forrest will represent lamb producers and operates a commercial flock of 25-30 ewes in Oxford, OH. Forrest co-ops with about 10 other producers in his area to supply American Lamb to the niche ethnic markets. Forrest and his wife Kathy also provide American Lamb cooking demonstrations for people having parties in their homes. The demonstrations are designed to educate people at the local level on where to buy American Lamb and how to prepare it.

Australian Free Trade Agreement a non-event for sheep industry

by Guy Flora, President of the American Sheep Industry Association

This headline of a news report in February came the closest to accurately describing the proposed agreement on trade between the United States and Australia. Unfortunately, some reports mentioned lamb tariffs or wool tariffs as being major factors when they were not.

U.S. lamb has not had any protections from imported products other than the two-year period under the 201 trade case from mid 1999 to late 2001. Lamb was never included with beef in the Meat Import Law of 1964, 1969, 1978 or later modified in the 1980s and converted to a tariff-rate quota in 1994. Lamb was referenced incorrectly in a few articles as having the same restrictions as beef, but this obviously is not the case as many of you in the American lamb production, feeding or packing industry can attest to with the rise in imports of the last 10 years.

On the wool side, tariffs on grease or scoured wool amounted to 3 to 4 pennies a pound. ASI began meeting with federal policymakers and U.S. congressional offices in early spring of 2003 regarding the proposed Australian agreement and by July of last year, it was clear there wasn't much to get excited about in the trade pact. The wool tariffs were considered by both countries to be "non significant," similar to lamb. We did hear that the Australian government was requesting outright elimination anyway, so we sent formal correspondence to the Administration opposing immediate elimination, which was adhered to through the negotiations. Australia wanted immediate elimination but will just have to live with a multi-year phase-out. (Actually, our best ammunition came from the Australian Wool Innovation, which publicly stated to its woolgrowers not to expect much in a U.S. agreement since nearly all of their wool comes to the United States in the form of textiles, which was not a big item in the agreement.)

With neither benefit expected to U.S. growers nor a fight worth waging over non-significant tariffs, the ASI board of directors didn't have to address policy on a proposed agreement nor expend more of your dues dollars on an issue of little to no impact.

Most of the calls to the association leaders or the office have been asking if we could set up a new import restriction on lamb in an Australian agreement. Unfortunately, these agreements are called Free Trade Agreements and are about commodities with worthwhile protections fighting to keep them but not setting up major restrictions where they didn't exist before.

A number of leading national papers and agriculture media called about the sheep industry view of the proposal and most were surprised to learn that sheep products were essentially freely traded. It wasn't a story for them any longer, but at least they didn't add to the confusion assuming the sheep industry had a major restriction to maintain as the sugar, beef or cotton industries had.

The sheep industry has been in free trade for decades and that is likely why you don't see ASI in the coalitions promoting free trade agreements and trade promotion authority.

You won't see ASI supporting this agreement either.

Daschle Introduces Legislation to Reverse COOL Delay (From ASI Weekly)

Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD) on May 20, 2004, introduced legislation to restore the country-of-origin labeling implementation deadline to September 2004.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) has pushed for mandatory COOL legislation for years. U.S. sheep industry leaders addressed the issue with federal policy makers during the annual ASI spring trip conducted in late April.

A two-year delay of the COOL law was included in the 2004 omnibus spending bill for all commodities except fish.

ASI Spring Trip a Success

(From ASI weekly)

Representatives from more than 40 sheep farms and ranches hailing from 17 states landed in Washington, D.C., last week under the direction of Janet Mawhinney, chair of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) Legislative Action Council.

The annual barbecue was again a roaring success with many compliments going to Ranchers' Lamb of Texas for its donation of quality lamb chops. The record number of guests at the barbecue (more than 175) included distinguished guests like: Sens. Conrad Burns (R-MT), Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Craig Thomas (R-WY); **Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN)** and Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA), Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Bill Hawks and BLM Director Kathleen Clarke.

The industry briefings with USDA included Dr. Ron DeHaven, administrator of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Dr. John Clifford, acting deputy administrator of APHIS, discussing the forward movement of the Scrapie Eradication Plan as well as the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Progress is being made to resolve the current trade issues between the United States and Canada and Mexico. Clifford also informed the group that APHIS is confident it will reach its 4,000 sheep per month scrapie-slaughter surveillance goal by the end of this year, and that the consistent-state compliance review is being conducted.

The final regulations for the ewe-lamb retention program are with the Office of Management and Budget, reported Dr. James Butler, deputy under secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Work on the sheep industry risk-management tool is moving forward utilizing work previously completed for feeder cattle and swine.

Dale Moore, chief of staff for Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman, stressed that there is no one identification system for all livestock. Industry is encouraged to continue to provide USDA with input to ensure the NAIS moves quickly and correctly.

Deputy Administrator for Wildlife Services, William Clay, reviewed the budget outlook for his area. Much work is being conducted in the area of wildlife disease surveillance as well as in trying to find publicly acceptable toxicants for use in predator control.

Chase Hibbard, representing the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC), discussed the work of the center to assist the industry by providing grants and loans.

ASI President Guy Flora commented that the sheep producers participating in this year's trip did an excellent job discussing the industry's priority issues with federal leaders. "It was very evident at USDA that our request to re-open the Mexico border to lamb product exports was a top consideration among officials, and we hope for prompt resolution. Producers traveling on their own dime representing sheep states from coast-to-coast carried ASI board policies directly to national officials."

ASI Supports Mandatory

COOL (From ASI Weekly)

Guy Flora, president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), this week communicated the industry's long-standing support for mandatory labeling to Reps. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and Charles Stenholm (D-TX), chairman and ranking member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, respectively. After the Memorial Day recess, Goodlatte and Stenholm plan to introduce legislation that would replace mandatory country-of-origin labeling to be implemented in 2006 with a voluntary program.

"We have consistently relayed our support of mandatory labeling," stated Flora. "We ask for every consideration that lamb is removed from this debate, and that will be allowed to go forward with mandatory labeling." The American Farm Bureau Federation and the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Association also sent letters opposing legislation which would repeal mandatory country-of-origin labeling and replace it with a voluntary program.

Sheep ID Recommendations

Submitted (From ASI weekly)

Last week the sheep-specific working group presented its recommended sheep identification strategy to the U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) steering committee.

Over the last four months, the diverse group has worked to develop a well-defined implementation phase-in plan for sheep which incorporates the needs of all segments of the industry. Individuals representing various stakeholder groups, such as breed association representatives, packers, feeders, range and farm flock producers, regulatory veterinarians and markets, have participated in the process under the direction of **Dr. Cindy Wolf**.

The plan recommends using the existing national Scrapie ID plan as the starting point since this system is more complete than those that exist for other species in the United States at this time. In addition, the industry strongly recommends multi-environmental research to demonstrate the potential problems and solutions involved in a national, electronic tracking system for sheep.

All species-specific plans will be formally presented to the USAIP Steering Committee during the ID INFO/EXPO 2004 being held in Chicago, Ill., on May 18-20, 2004. Dr. Wolf will be presenting the recommendations put forth by the sheep industry during this event.

Mexican Border Closed to Lamb

Products (From ASI Weekly)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is keenly aware of the difficulty surrounding the movement of sheep products into Mexico. This was the statement heard by more than 40 sheep producers who attended meetings at the department last Friday as part of their spring trip to Washington, D.C., to inform legislators and USDA personnel of the issues relevant to the sheep industry.

USDA speakers from Dr. Ron DeHaven, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to Dr. John

Clifford, acting deputy administrator, APHIS Veterinary Services, Dr. James Butler, deputy under secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Dr. Chuck Lambert, deputy under secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs and Dale Moore, chief of staff for Secretary Veneman, each expressed their understanding of the problem in shipping processed sheep products into Mexico. A teleconference between officials of the two countries was scheduled for that afternoon to hopefully help resolve the problems associated with market access to this important export market.

The impact of the trade restriction increases each week as coolers in at least all major and medium-sized lamb processing plants are filled with lamb products destined for Mexico.

Upper Midwest Columbia Sheep Association

Annual Membership meeting and Jr. Show will be held Aug 8, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. Cottonwood County Fairgrounds. Classes are as follows:

1. Ewe lamb born 1/1/03 through 1/31/04
(Show person 15-21 years of age)
2. Ewe lamb born after 2/1/04
(Show person 15-21 years of age)
3. Fall ewe lamb born 9/1/03 through 12/31/03
(Show person 15-21 years of age)
4. Yearling Ewe (Show person 15-21 years of age)
5. Ram lamb born after 1/1/04
(Show person 15-21 years of age)
6. Ewe lamb born 1/1/ through 1/31/04
(Show person 14 years or younger)
7. Ewe lamb born after 2/1/04
(Show person 14 years or younger)
8. Fall ewe lamb born 9/1/03 through 12/31/03
(Show person 14 years or younger)
9. Yearling ewe (Show person 14 years or younger)
10. Ram lamb born after 1/1/04
(Show person 14 years or younger)
11. Senior Showmanship (15-21 years of age)
12. Junior Showmanship (14 years or younger)
13. Pee Wee class (Young members)
14. Pair of ewe lambs--any age (any age)

All exhibitors receive a \$50 savings bond from National Columbia Sheep Breeders Assn. Top lamb from class 1-3 & 4-6 receive a \$100 savings bond. Contact Leland Thiesen, 39737 Hwy 71, Windom, MN 56101 or phone (507) 831-4906.

ASI Makes American Lamb Board Nominations (From ASI)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is seeking applications from certified national, state and regional lamb organizations/associations to fill two vacant positions on the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Board, also known as the American Lamb Board (ALB). The criteria for the open positions include one producer who annually owns 100 or less head of lambs and one producer who owns more than 500 head of lambs annually. Each nominating organization must submit a minimum of two nominees for each vacant position.

As the certified national association, the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is submitting the following nominations for these positions: Mary Clarke from Colorado is being re-nominated in the 100 head or less category along with David Trotter from Indiana; nominees for the over 500 head category are current ALB member, Mike Guerry from Idaho, and Loren Moench, Jr. from Utah.

Clarke, a fourth-generation farmer, is partner in Clarke Livestock, which runs about 25 sheep. She has well over 10 years of leadership experience in the sheep industry and is requesting re-appointment to the board. Trotter operates a family farm flock of primarily purebred polled Dorsets and southdowns. He has been a county extension educator for nearly 26 years assisting producers with animal health issues, production and marketing.

Guerry is currently a member of the board seeking reappointment. As president of the family owned range in Idaho, he runs a range sheep operation as well as a large row-crop farm operation. Guerry has held leadership positions in the agricultural industry for more than 25 years.

Moench, a life-long sheep producer, runs about 9,000 ewes in a range operation in Utah. He has been active in industry organizations from ASI to the American Farm Bureau for the last 35 years, holding numerous leadership positions.

"ASI has taken serious steps to provide a highly qualified slate of nominees for the two vacant positions. These experienced and dedicated producers have served the industry at local, state and national levels and are very capable of making decisions in cooperation with the feeding and packing sectors represented on this diverse, industry-wide board," stated ASI President Guy Flora.

The ALB is a 13-member board comprised of producers, feeders, seedstock producers and first handlers, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, to administer the activities of the American lamb industry funded program initiated in 2002.

Personal adds (as seen in the Summer 2004 Montana Woolgrowers Bulletin)

*Foxy lady who is fashion conscious, blue haired beauty, in low 70's, slim and 5 foot tall – (I used to be 5 foot seven). I am searching for a sharp dressing man to dine and dance with. Must be sharp dresser. If you have matching white shoes to a white belt, that is a plus.

*Winning smile and I am an active grandma. Have original teeth. I was raised on a dairy farm and we drank whole milk. I floss daily; eat steaks rare, like corn on the cob and Carmel candy. Am into sleeping in mornings and staying out late at night.

*Memories: I can usually remember Monday through Thursdays. If you can remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday – let's put our heads together.

*I am in MINT condition. Male born in 1933, have high mileage but in good shape. I have some hair, have many new parts such as hip, knee, cornea in right eye, few new valves in the heart. Can't run but walk just fine. Let's hook up!

*Quiet. That's what I am and into solitude, walks, sunrises and sunsets. Like the ocean and practice yoga. I meditate at least 3 hours per day. If you are the silent type, let's get together. I have a hearing aide and if you do too we can take them out and just enjoy our quiet times together.

*Long term commitment for the right man. Recent widow who has just buried her fourth husband, and am looking for someone who can round out a six unit plot at Mountain View Cemetery. Dizziness, fainting, shortness of breath, slow walker not a problem.

Livestock Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association inducted five people into the Livestock Hall of Fame at their annual meeting in March 2004; Chuck Bobendrier of Pipestone, a Hampshire sheep producer; and Juanita Reed-Boniface and Richard Boniface, professionals in service to agriculture and Jeanne and Doug Tuman from Hutchinson, long-time Brown Swiss cattle breeders.

Chuck Bobendrier has been involved with the Hampshire sheep breed for over fifty years. His success with Hampshires is almost unparalleled, as he's won top awards at most all the prestigious shows in the country. He's won Premier Exhibitor, Premier Breeder, National Champion Ram and First Place Flock at the national show.

Dick Boniface and Juanita Reed-Boniface have spent their careers in agriculture education, production, training, marketing and volunteerism.

Dick spent a large portion of his career with wool marketing through the North Central Wool Marketing. He also helped organize the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers and has judged many fleece shows across the country.

Juanita has served much of her career in extension, beginning as an extension agent in 1963 and finishing as an Associate Professor in 1992. In between that 30 year span, she served in many roles, from trainer to consulting to superintendent of the 4-H department at the Minnesota State Fair. Since 1992 Juanita and Dick have been program coordinators for the Minnesota Foundation for Responsible Animal Care (MnFRAC).

The Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame resides in Haecker Hall at the University of Minnesota and these inductions will bring to 136 the number of portraits hanging there.

Plan to attend the MLWPA annual conference

The theme for the 2004 MLWPA annual conference is *Sheep Nutrition*. Although the agenda is still being developed, several speakers and topics have been confirmed. Dr. Rodney Kott, Montana State University will cover *Vitamin E Supplementation and Lamb Survival and Grazing Management*. Dr. Larry Goelz, Pipestone Vet Clinic will address *Pregnancy Toxemia and Prevention and Control of Acidosis*. Mike Caskey will discuss *The Effects of Increasing Protein in Flushing Diets*. The producer panel topic will be *Saving on Feed Costs*. Dr. Holly Neaton will talk about *OPP*. Dr. Cindy Wolf will conduct a *Sheep Quality Assurance* certification session.

The banquet and auction will be held on Friday evening. The Silver Bell luncheon will be on Saturday. Saturday will once again include an entire day of youth programs. The trade show will be open both days. We are pleased to announce that the Make It Yourself with Wool Contest will be held in conjunction with the MLWPA annual conference this year on Saturday. A complete agenda and registration information will be available in the fall issue of the newsletter.

This year's annual conference will be November 19 and 20 at the Best Western Inn in Mankato. If you have suggestions for this year's or future conferences, contact Jeremy Geske at (952) 758-7938 or geskesheep@aol.com

Highlights March 27, 2004 MLWP - Board of Directors meeting

President Bob Padula called the meeting to order with Patty Anderson, Charles Christians, Jeremy Geske, Karen Geske, Mike Haubrich, Jim Hickman, Gene Holmquist, Warner Johnson, Doug Mathias, George Mead, Robin Schmidt, Todd Schmidt, and Sherry Stirling in attendance. Also present were MLWP members representing the Minnesota Farm Bureau Sheep Committee members David Van Loh, Dan Lippert, Steve Sheffert, and Blake Meshke and Mike Caskey.

Approved Secretary's minutes for Board of Directors meeting on January 17th, 2004. Approved treasurer's report as presented. Beginning balance on January 9, 2004 of \$20381.84, Income during period was \$5,872.85 (mostly memberships) and expenses were \$3,470.65 (membership directory, newsletter, ASI convention). Ending balance reported as \$22,784.04.

CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS:

Notice of selection of Dick Boniface, Juanita Reed-Boniface, and Chuck Bobendier into Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame. Thank you letter from Sheilana Sperry who placed fifth in overall MIYWW competition. Letter from Judy Johnston indicating that she is seeking a replacement for her position. ALB packet was passed around. Wool for beret for the Iraq security forces was discussed.

Minnesota Farm Bureau representatives gave a presentation pointing out that they have a state sheep committee, are a communication conduit for legislative issues, and requested that we partner with them in the promotion of their summer event.

Dr Christians gave update on grant from ALB for lamb promotion and handed out a fact sheet and application for the Minnesota Lamb Ambassador program which will be posted on website.

Wool mulch project was discussed – including the cost, liability, risk, need for a wool pool.

Newsletter – Expanded mailing should include vendors, associates, MN FRAC, Farm Bureau, ASI, MN Livestock Breeders, commodity alliances, and industry suppliers.

4H Youth Show Lamb: Rate of growth has been difficult to police and is being dropped. Todd Schmidt reported on the SEMPSA Youth Starter Flock program. Consensus was to include \$900 in 2005 budget for youth program-that would provide up to \$100 per satellite.

Patty Anderson reported on the commercial booth at the State Fair. Group need a locking enclosed trailer at least 6 x10 for storing items, MN Grown bags, additional muslin tablecloths, and other miscellaneous items for 2004. Authorize Patty Anderson to purchase necessary supplies for 2004 booth and be reimbursed by MLWP. Consensus was that commercial (traditional storefront versus on-the-farm) vendors using space at state fair will continue to pay \$100 - same as last year.

Bob Padula reported that there will be no wool show at this year's state fair. He is still working on additional space in NE corner to expand the Baa Booth. General appearance of the barn was discussed again. For safety reasons, there should be no smoking in the barn and general area cleanliness needs to be enforced.

OLD BUSINESS:

Patty Anderson reported on MLWP booth for Shepherds Harvest. We will sell red T-shirts, wool mulch, and cook books. Patty has the cook books.

Jeremy Geske reported that the theme for the Fall Conference is "Nutrition."

Mike Haubrich reported on upcoming ASI convention. He is MLWP delegate.

MEMBERSHIP:

Directory is out. Current membership is 256. 60 farms from 2002/2003 did not renew. Dues renewal notices for next year need to be mailed separately from convention mailing so that they are more conspicuous. More effort needs to be made to include shearers. MN Suffolk Association needs to be added to website Board directory.

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance for events was discussed. If you have an event that needs to be covered, notify Mike Haubrich or Bob Padula at least a month before the event.

MLWPA COMMERCIAL BOOTH AT THE MN STATE FAIR

What Is The MLWPA Commercial Booth?

Located in the Minnesota Commons Building, the Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association sponsors the commercial booth. The booth is located near the "butter heads." It is the primary source of income for our organization besides our membership dues and sponsorships. Through Mary Lue's in St. Peter and private sheep producer vendors, this booth provides fair visitors with more complete information about sheep; explaining how they are cared for and also displays many by-products of our industry. Fair visitors are educated on our products by receiving cutting charts on lambs, instructions on how to prepare the different cuts, recipes, wool care cards, and the Sheep Reporter; which is an excellent source for children to learn more about sheep.

We exist to educate and inform the public about the different sources of our products and how they relate to sheep, the producers and the potential customers. As a producer we are at an advantage of having quite a few woolen mills in our state and we need to work with them because their products are advertising our raw products.

What Can You Do?

Volunteer!! People like you are needed to assist in staffing the Commercial Booth. Work shifts are 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. If you can't work a whole shift, even working a couple of hours during meal times would be most helpful. The booth is open all 12 days of the State Fair, August 26 - Sept. 6, 2004. If you enjoy talking to the public and sharing your knowledge, this can be a very gratifying experience for you. Workers get a free pass, valued at \$9.00 per day to enter the fairgrounds.

To volunteer, please call Patty Anderson at 952-447-4189 or e-mail PATMEADOW@prodigy.net

University of Minnesota, Texas A&M to Lead Centers on Agro-Security

The University of Minnesota and Texas A&M University have been chosen to lead two new Homeland Security Centers of Excellence on agro-security.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) anticipates providing both institutions and their partners with a total of \$33 million over the course of the next three years to address security in two key agricultural sectors: food security and foreign animal diseases.

"Protecting our food and agriculture systems is a top priority for President Bush," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "Research conducted at these institutions will greatly enhance our ability to protect against animal and plant pests and diseases and food pathogens."

The University of Minnesota's HS-Center, known as the University Center for Post-Harvest Food Protection and Defense, will address agro-security issues related to post-harvest food protection. DHS anticipates providing it and its partners with \$15 million during the next three years to establish best practices and to attract new researchers to manage and respond to food contamination events, both intentional and naturally occurring.

DHS anticipates providing Texas A&M University and its partners with \$18 million during the next three years for the study of high consequence foreign animal and zoonotic diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, Rift Valley fever and avian influenza.

Want to get into the fair for free?

The Baa Booth™ at the Minnesota State Fair

The Baa Booth™ -

Is a lamb and wool industry educational booth, which provides fair visitors with more complete information about sheep, their products and how producers care for sheep. The booth will provide fair visitors the opportunity to view assorted displays and participate in various activities while visiting the booth.

The Mission

The Baa Booth™ exists to educate and inform the public about the lamb and wool industry. Informing the consumer about how the animals are cared for; how the animals contribute to their lives; how the lamb and wool industry contributes to the economic, social and environmental well being of society; and how producers and other people play an integral role in making all of this happen.

The Baa Booth™ Needs You!

Volunteers

Every day, during the first 8 days, of the fair the Baa Booth features regular demonstrations and activities throughout the day.

Volunteers are needed to help in staffing the booth and running the activities.

Dates: August 26 through September 2nd, 2004, the first 8 days of the Fair.

The Booth is located in the sheep barn and is open:

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Weekdays**
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Weekends**

(**Exceptions: the Booth closes at 3 pm Sunday, August 24 and 2 pm Thursday, August 28 due to animal changeover)

Volunteers are asked to volunteer for a three-hour shift in return for a free gate ticket and parking pass in the volunteer lot. Extra people are needed to assist with the Wool Pack-O-Rama that will be held, Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at 5:00 pm.

Sponsors

Sponsors are still needed to provide educational materials. Prizes and/or cash donations to assist with the operation of the 2003 Baa Booth™ and for the long-term success of the Baa Booth™ are welcome. Please contact the coordinator with any questions.

Questions? About the Baa Booth may be directed to the booth coordinator: Doris Mold, phone: 651-645-3275, fax: 651-917-9637 or e-mail: doris@sunriseag.net

Please return this response form by August 15, 2004 to aid us in mailing your tickets in a timely manner

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

I would like to work at the booth (check all that apply and please specify times, below)

8/26 8/27 8/28 8/29 (opens at 8, closes at 3)
 8/30 8/31 9/11 9/2 (closes at 2)

(Please sign up for a minimum of three hours to receive a free ticket – a \$9.00 Value)

Return forms to: Doris Mold, 1778 Eustis St., Lauderdale, MN 55113

Farm Bureau Summer Sheep Tour

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Sheep Advisory Committee invites all sheep producers to attend this event which includes educational speakers, a buffet lunch with lamb, and a tour of the Faribault Woolen Mill. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by a dynamic array of speakers.

Dr. Dan Morrical, Iowa State University, will discuss *Feeding By-Products from Grain Processing to Sheep*. Stan Potratz, Premier, will explain the latest technology in *Electronic ID for Sheep*. An update on *Sheep Quality Assurance* will be given by Dr. Cindy Wolf, University of Minnesota. Chris Radatz, Director of Government Relations for Minnesota Farm Bureau, will provide a *Minnesota Legislative Review* focusing on issues that affect sheep producers. Attendees will also get a chance to meet Minnesota Farm Bureau's new Chief Administrator, Bob Shepard as he talks about *What Farm Bureau can do for You*. After a lunch there will be a tour of the Faribault Woolen Mill.

The Summer Sheep Tour will be held Tuesday, **July 13**, at the **Trucker's Inn Restaurant** in Faribault. Anyone may attend at a cost of **\$10/person** if pre-registered by July 2 (\$15/person for late registrations). To register, send a check payable to Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation to Jeremy Geske, 3080 Eagandale Place, Eagan, MN 55121. The Summer Sheep Tour is sponsored by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, the Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association, and the Minnesota Farm Bureau Sheep Advisory Committee.

Farm Bureau **The Voice of Agriculture**

Farm Bureau Programs

- Promotion & Education
- Young Farmers & Ranchers
- Legislative trips to Washington, D.C.
- Conferences and Educational Events
- Scholarships
- Access to information and publications
- Member Benefits

Minnesota Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization with more than 33,000 members belonging to 78 county Farm Bureaus. We give you a voice, by taking producer/member developed policy and using it to direct our legislative efforts. Programs for Young Farmers and Ranchers help develop leadership skills and improve farm management. Promotion and Education efforts involve members with programs such as Ag in the Classroom and safety camps for children.

Call your County Farm Bureau and become part of a positive grassroots organization making a difference!

minnesota farm bureau federation



P.O. Box 64370 ♦ St. Paul ♦ Minnesota ♦ 55164 ♦ 651-905-2100

Calendar of Events Year 2004

- June 17 - 19 National Polypay Show & Sale
Springfield, Illinois
- July 6-10 National Rambouillet Show & Sale
Buffalo, WY Johnson Co.
Fairgrounds
<http://rambouilletsheep.org/>
- July 13 Farm Bureau Sheep Tour
Faribault, MN
- July 15 - 17 National Targhee Show & Sale
Belvedere, Illinois
- July 17 - 23 7th World Sheep & Wool Congress
Quebec City, Canada
- August 7 MN State Suffolk Show & Sale,
Cottonwood Co. Fairgrounds, Windom
Contact Jere Rambow (320) 693-8367**
- August 8 Upper Midwest Columbia Sheep Assn.
Annual Membership meeting & Jr. Show
1:00 p.m. Cottonwood Co. Fairgrounds.**
- Aug 26 - Sept 6 Minnesota State Fair
- September 16 Montana Ram Sale, 12-Noon
Miles City, Montana
- Nov 19-20 2004 MLWPA Convention & Trade
Show Best Western Inn --- Mankato, MN

Year 2005

- January 26 - 29 ASI Annual Convention - Reno, NV
- Nov 18 - 19 2005 MLWPA Convention & Trade
Show Fergus Falls, MN
- Future Newsletter Schedule:
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Sept/Oct | Conference and Trade Show |
| Dec/Jan | Conference Highlights and Upcoming
Legislative Issues |
| March/April | Spring Issue |
| June/July | State Fair Issue |

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

*MLWPA Newsletter
1507 7th St NE
New Prague, MN 56071*